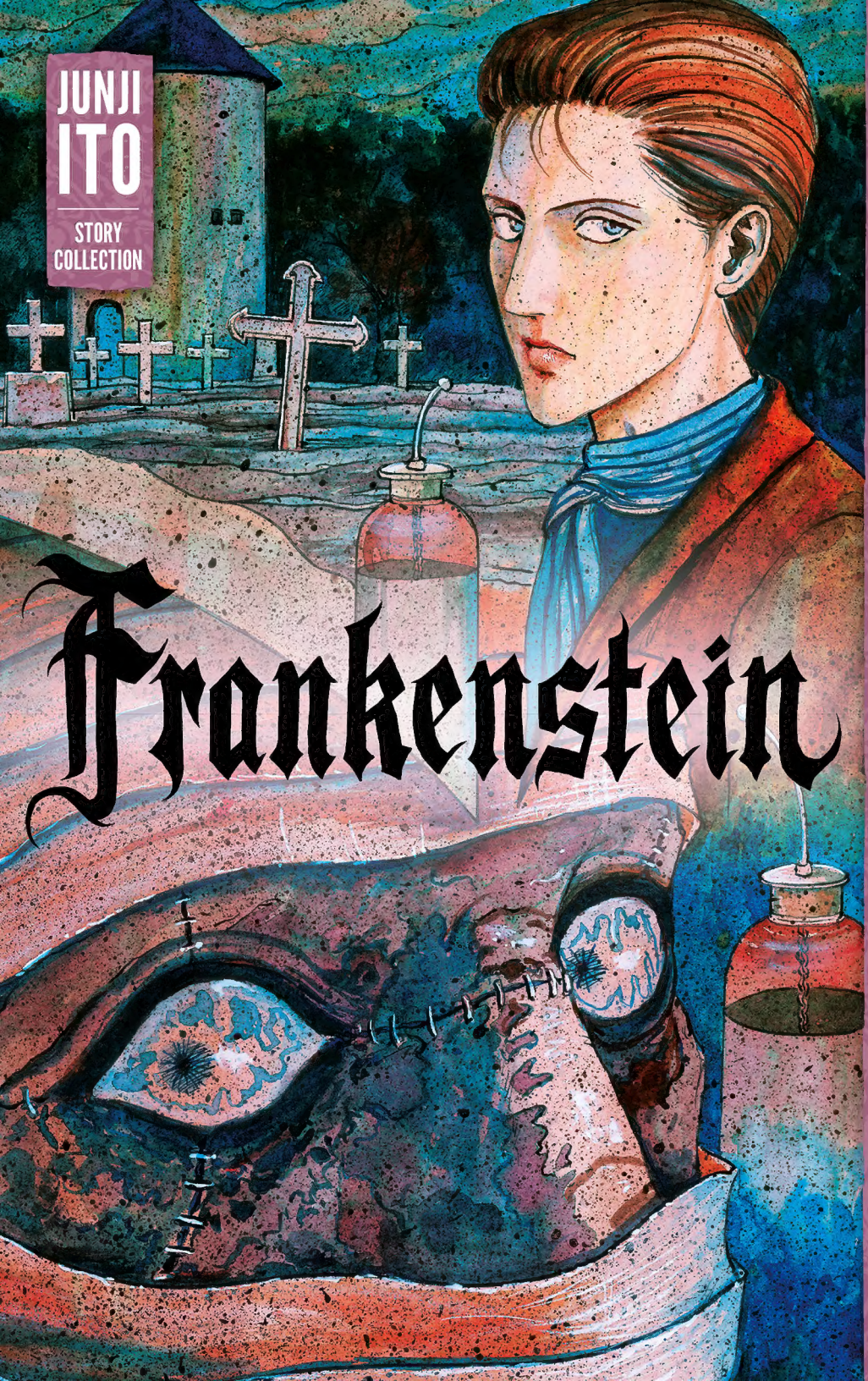
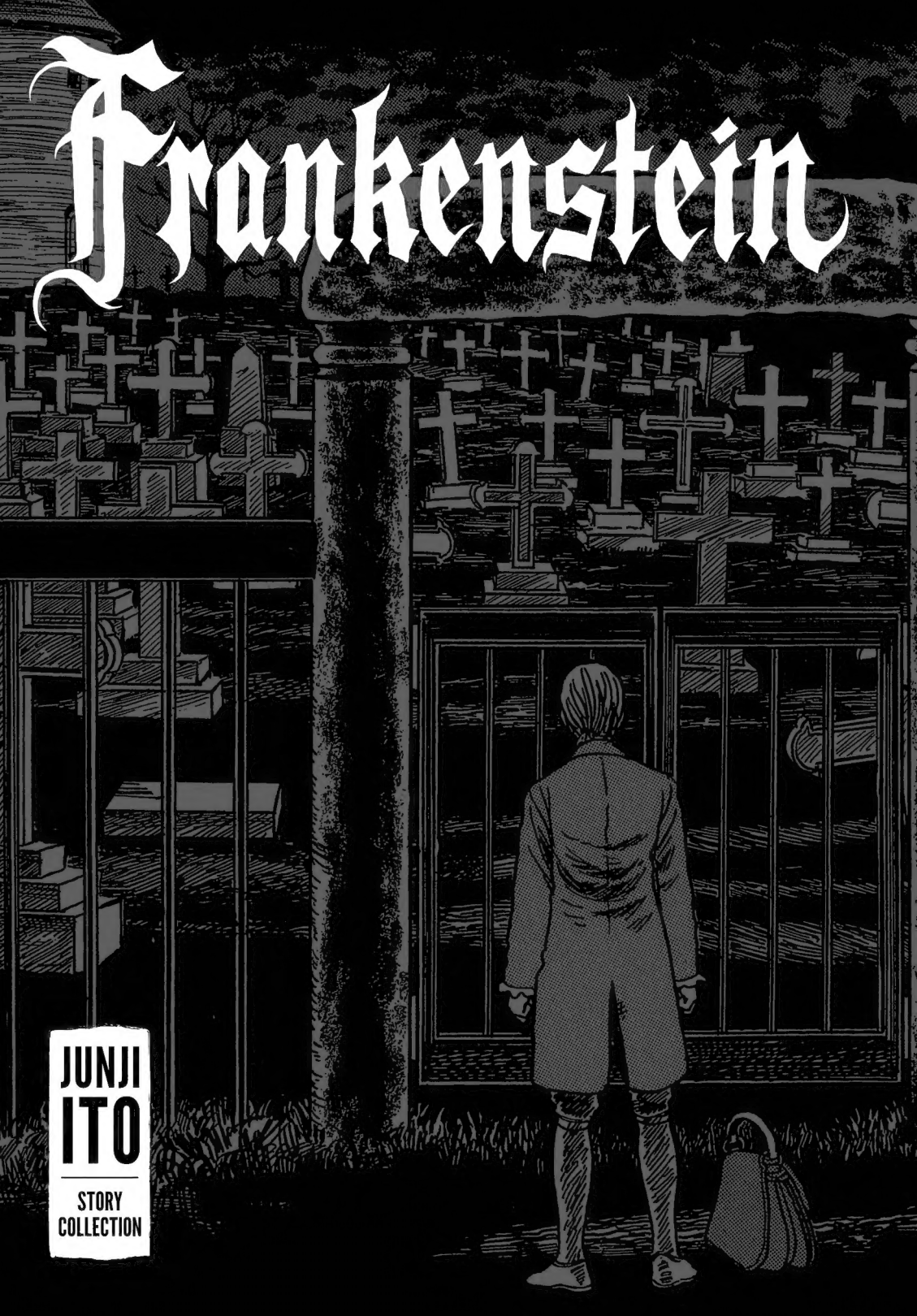
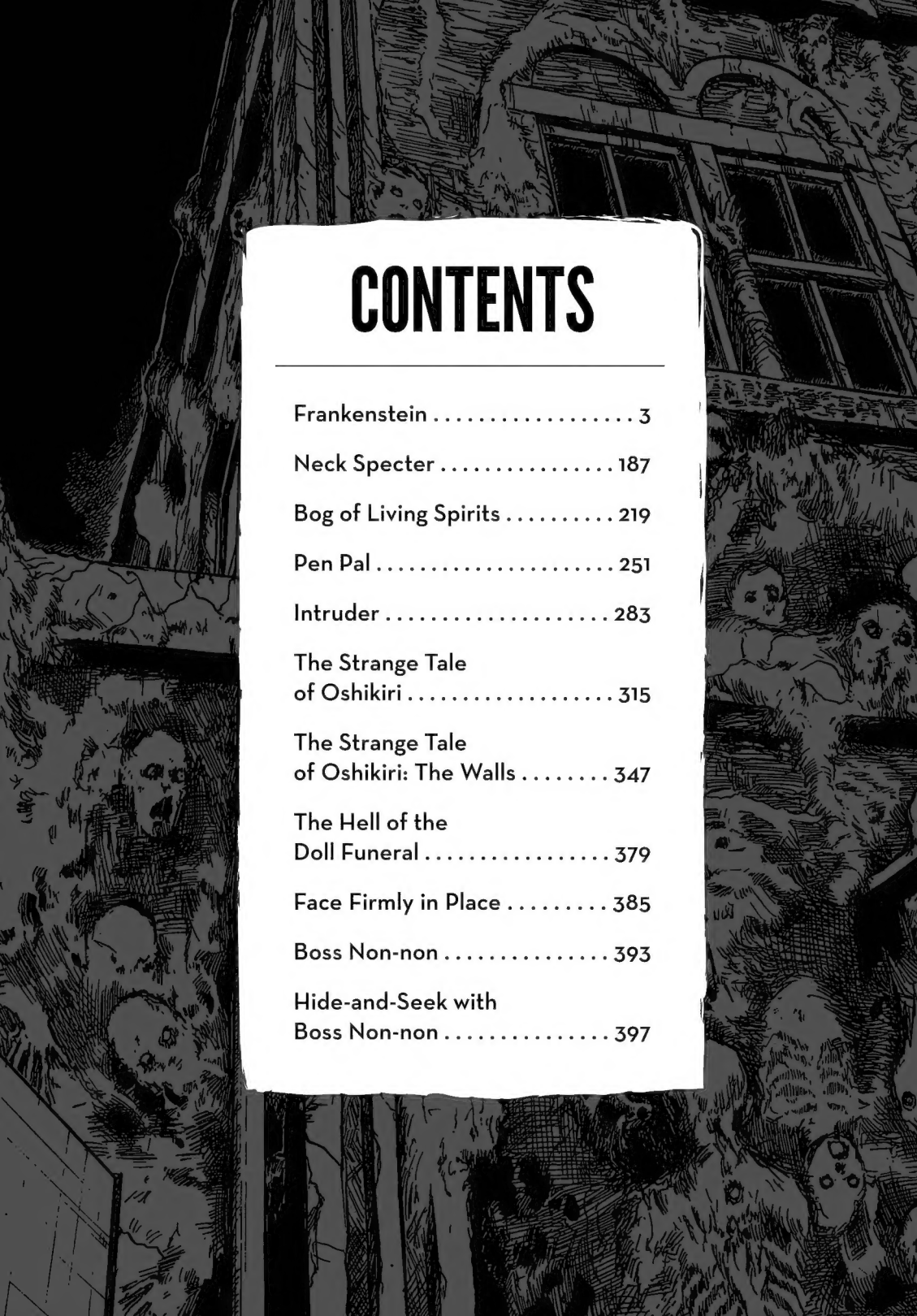

JUNJI
ITO
STORY
COLLECTION
Frankenstein


Frankenstein
JUNJI
ITO
STORY
COLLECTION



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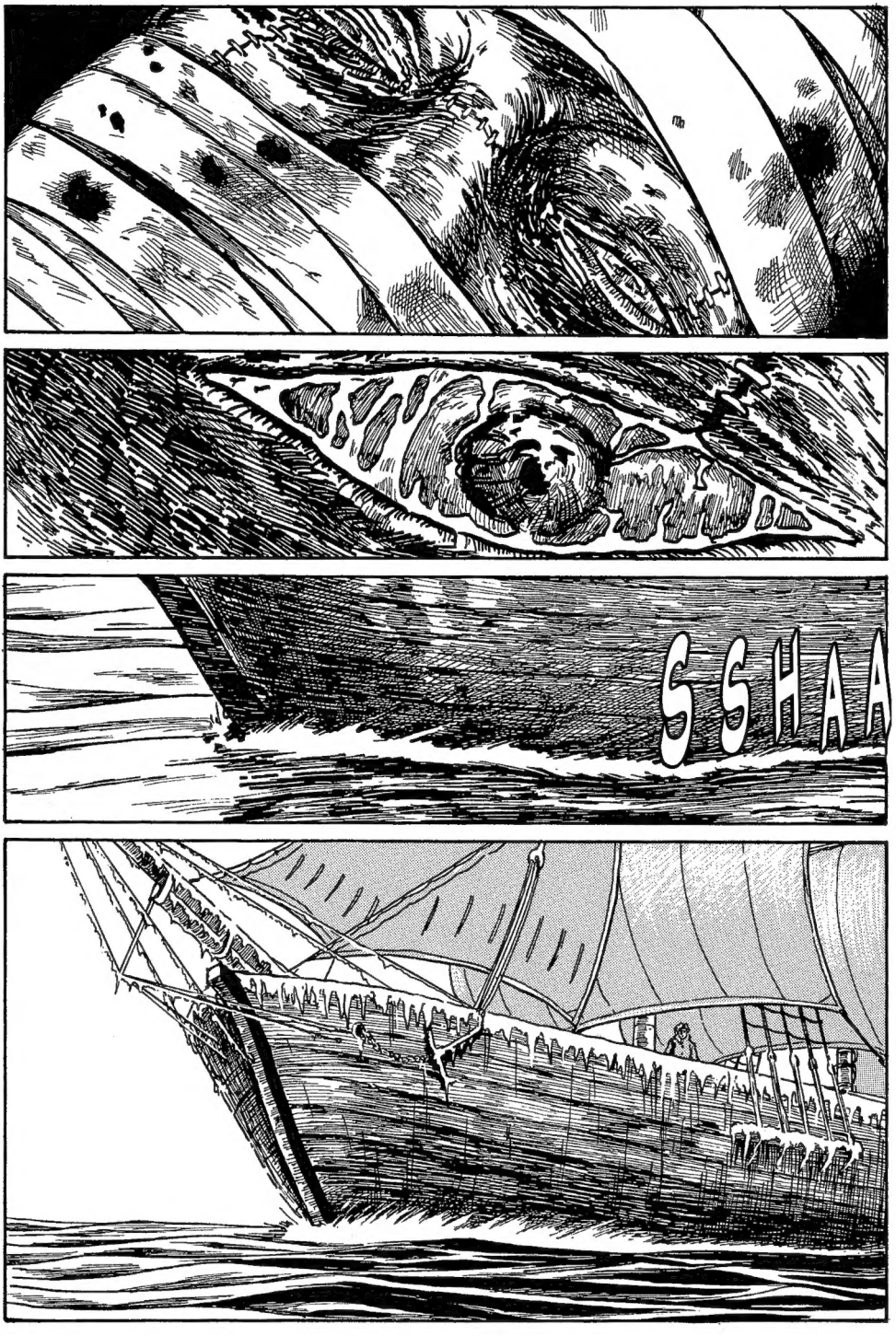
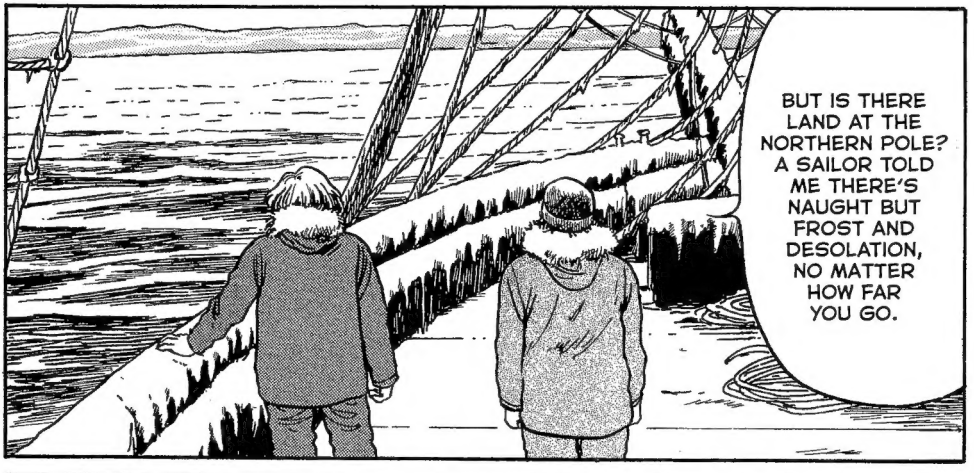
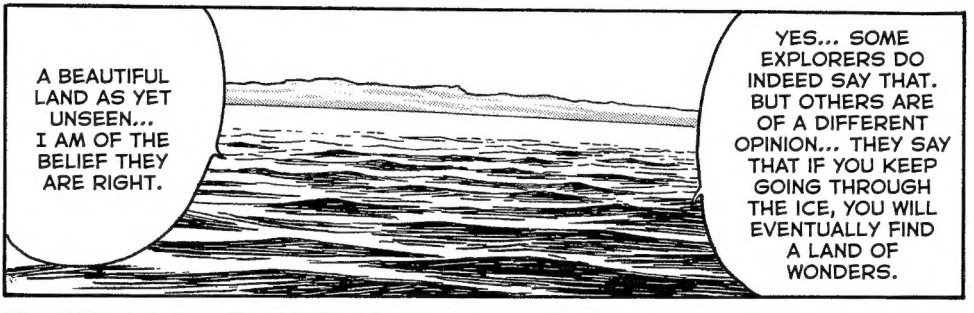
FRANKENSTEIN
フランケンシュタイン

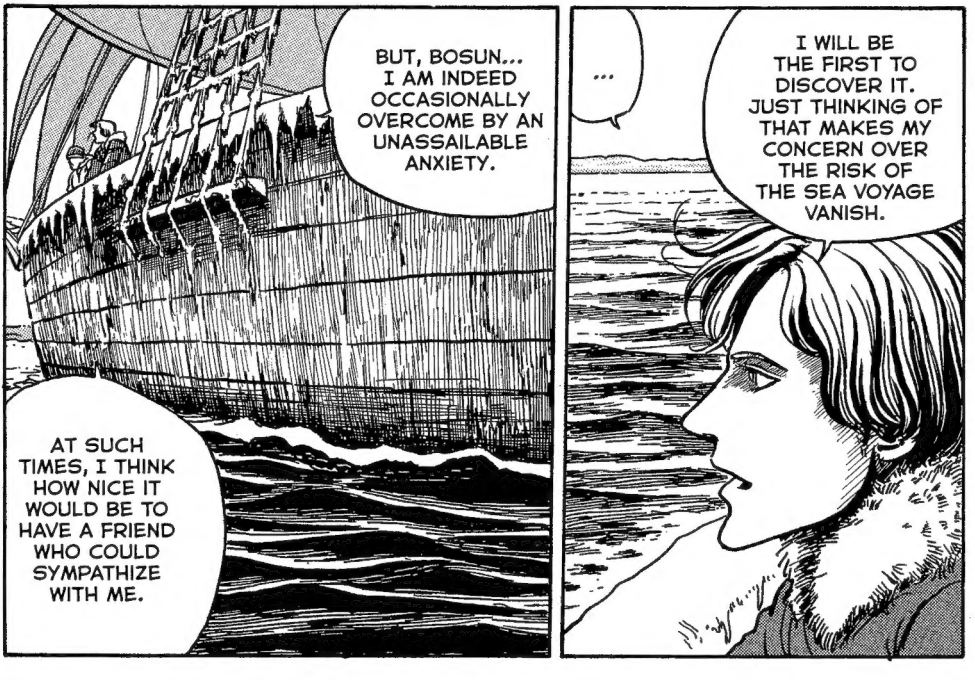
...I HAVE UNLOCKED THE MYSTERIES OF LIFE.
AT LONG LAST ...
PSSSSH
TONIGHT, I AM BECOME A GOD!!


SSHAA

SHAAA
AH, MY BOSUN!
MR. WALTON, YOU'LL FREEZE TO DEATH IF YOU STAY OUT HERE TOO LONG.
HA HA HA! DON'T WORRY. I'M ACTUALLY QUITE ACCUSTOMED TO VOYAGES THROUGH THE NORTHERN WATERS.
I'M WELL AWARE. YOU'VE BEEN TRAINING FOR THIS EXPEDITION, YES? GOING OUT WITH THE WHALE FISHERS?
YES... THIS HAS BEEN THE FAVOURITE DREAM OF MY EARLY YEARS. FINALLY, AN EXPEDITION TO THE NORTH POLE! THAT'S WHY I HIRED YOU SKILLED SAILORS.


BUT IS THERE LAND AT THE NORTHERN POLE? A SAILOR TOLD ME THERE'S NAUGHT BUT FROST AND DESOLATION, NO MATTER HOW FAR YOU GO.

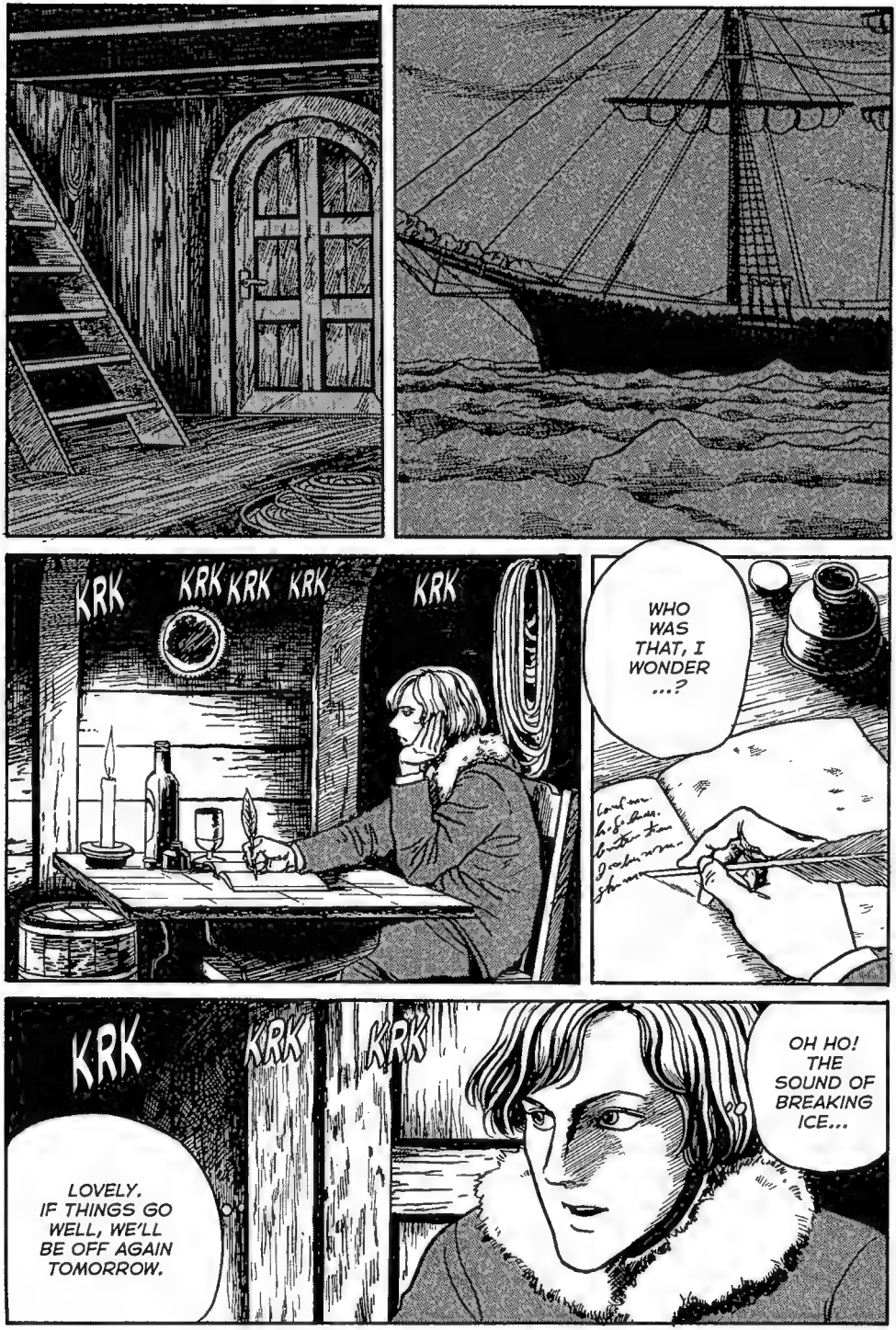

A BEAUTIFUL LAND AS YET UNSEEN... I AM OF THE BELIEF THEY ARE RIGHT.
YES... SOME EXPLORERS DO INDEED SAY THAT. BUT OTHERS ARE OF A DIFFERENT OPINION... THEY SAY THAT IF YOU KEEP GOING THROUGH THE ICE, YOU WILL EVENTUALLY FIND A LAND OF WONDERS.


AT SUCH TIMES, I THINK HOW NICE IT WOULD BE TO HAVE A FRIEND WHO COULD SYMPATHIZE WITH ME.
BUT, BOSUN... I AM INDEED OCCASIONALLY OVERCOME BY AN UNASSAILABLE ANXIETY.
...
I WILL BE THE FIRST TO DISCOVER IT. JUST THINKING OF THAT MAKES MY CONCERN OVER THE RISK OF THE SEA VOYAGE VANISH.

STOP THE SHIP!
DAMMIT! WE'LL BE CRUSHED BY THE ICE IF THIS KEEPS UP.
KEE
KEE KEE KEE
AND NOW WE'VE GOT FOG ON TOP OF THAT.
HMMM.
WELL... IF OUR LUCK'S POOR, PERHAPS FOREVER.
THIS IS SOME LUCK... BOSUN, HOW LONG MIGHT WE HAVE TO STAY LIKE THIS?

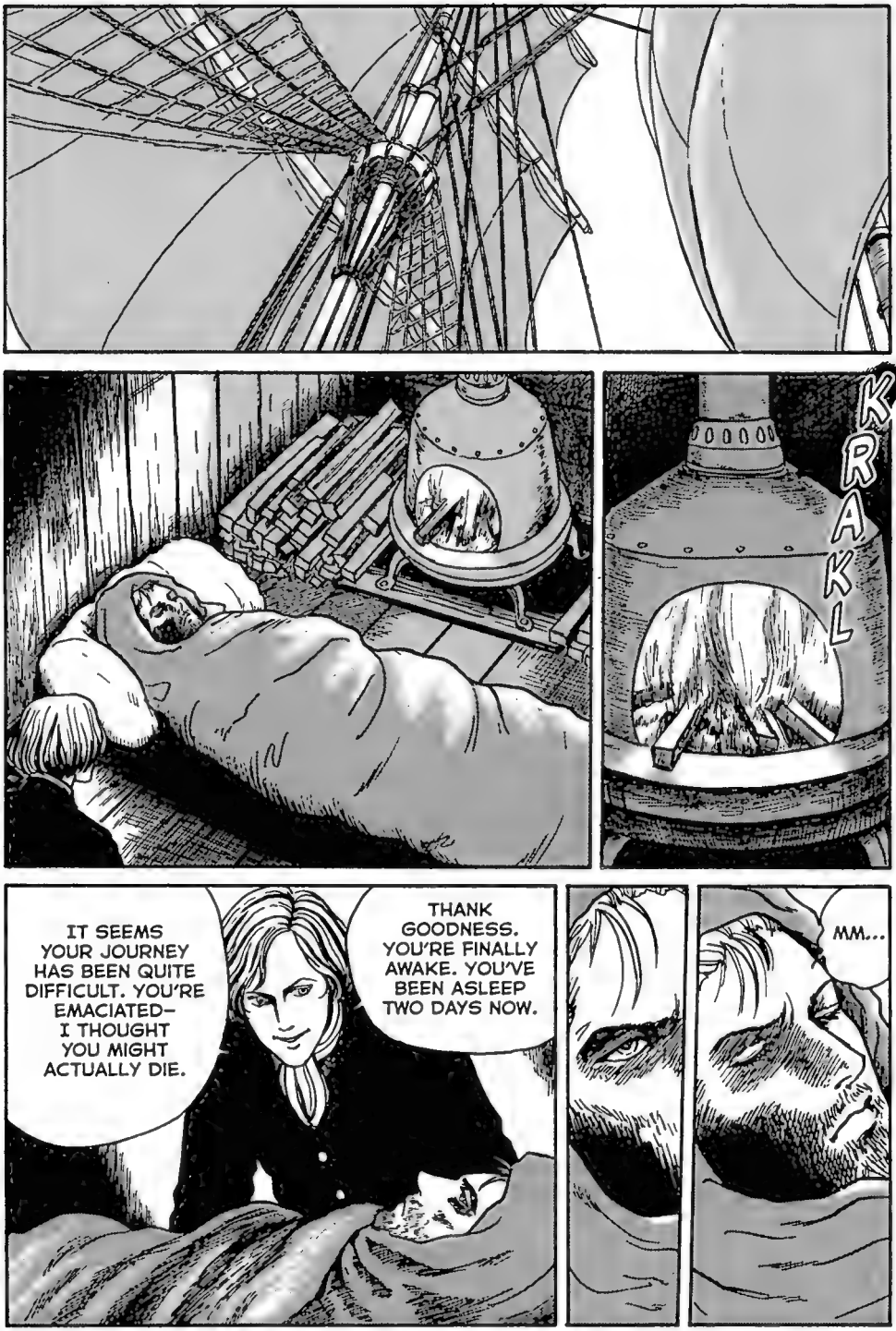
WHOA! WHAT ON EARTH IS *THAT*?!
ON TOP OF THE ICE!
OVER THERE! RIGHT THERE!
DO YOU SEE SOME-THING ?!
WHAT IS IT?!

ZSH ZSH ZSH ZSH ZSH ZSH ZSH
CRACK
...WAY OVER THERE, HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY FROM CIVILIZATION?
WHY WOULD A SLEDGE BE...
...
HE MUST BE EIGHT FEET TALL!
BUT THE MAN DRIVING IS GIGANTIC!


KRK
KRK
KRK
KRK
KRK
WHO WAS THAT, I WONDER ...?
KRK
KRK
KRK
LOVELY. IF THINGS GO WELL, WE'LL BE OFF AGAIN TOMORROW.
OH HO! THE SOUND OF BREAKING ICE...

CAPTAIN WALTON, HAVE A LOOK AT THIS.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
MORN-ING ...
CHATTER CHATTER
THE NEXT MORN ...
WE WON'T HEAR A WORD ABOUT IT, SO JUST GET ON THE SHIP!
I'M TELLING YOU, YOU'LL FREEZE TO DEATH IN TWO, THREE HOURS LIKE THAT.

HERE IS OUR CAPTAIN; HE WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO PERISH ON THE OPEN SEA.
MUST'VE GOT STUCK ON A CHUNK THAT BROKE OFF AND FLOATED AWAY.
IT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE YESTERDAY.
THE SLEDGE AGAIN!
IN THAT CASE, I SHALL ACCEPT YOUR INVITATION!
YOU ARE ...?
WE ARE CURRENTLY HEADED TO THE NORTH POLE.
WHERE IS IT BOUND?
THIS SHIP...


KRAKL
MM...
THANK GOODNESS. YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE. YOU'VE BEEN ASLEEP TWO DAYS NOW.
IT SEEMS YOUR JOURNEY HAS BEEN QUITE DIFFICULT. YOU'RE EMACIATED– I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT ACTUALLY DIE.

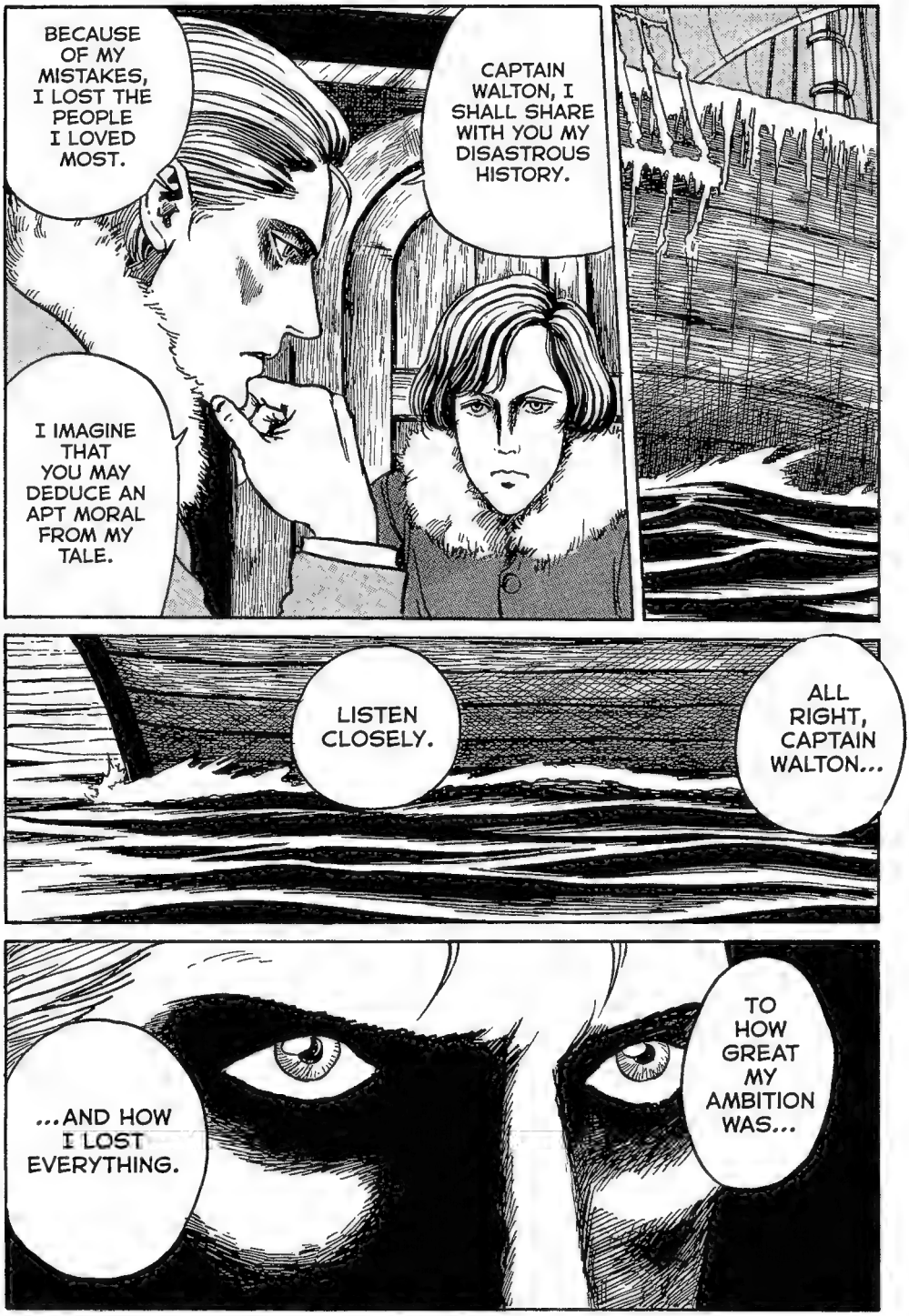
...IS THE SHIP HEADING TOWARDS THE NORTH POLE?
LEAP
AH!
OH! YOU MUSTN'T MOVE SO SUDDENLY.
YOU DID SURPRISE US, THOUGH. IF THIS SHIP HAD BEEN ON ITS WAY BACK TO ARCHANGEL, DID YOU INTEND TO REMAIN THERE UPON THE ICE? IN YOUR CONDITION?
YES. WE'RE MAKING GOOD PROGRESS NOW.
...ARE YOU SAYING YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO ACCOMPLISH AT THE NORTH POLE, EVEN IF IT MEANS YOUR DEATH?
YOU...
OF COURSE! BETTER TO DIE THERE THAN RETURN HOME IN DISGRACE.
THAT BASE DEMON!
I SEEK THE ONE WHO FLED FROM ME.

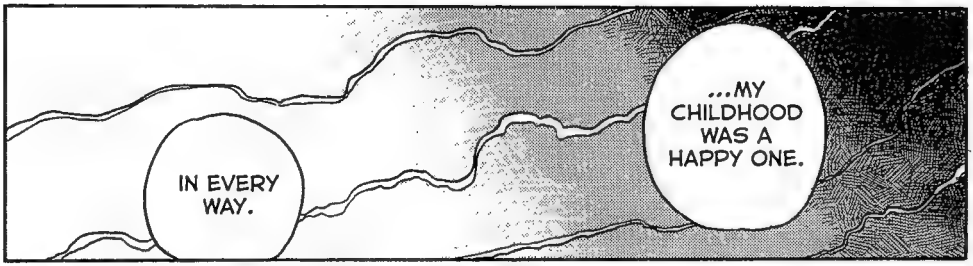
AND DID HE TRAVEL IN THE SAME FASHION– BY SLEDGE?
WOULD THE MAN WHOM YOU PURSUED HAPPEN TO BE A PERSON OF ENORMOUS STATURE?
WHAT ?!
FWOOSH
A DAY AHEAD OF ME?
I FANCY WE HAVE SEEN HIM, FOR THE DAY BEFORE WE PICKED YOU UP WE SAW SOME DOGS DRAWING A SLEDGE ACROSS THE ICE.
AS I THOUGHT.
HOW DO YOU–?!
FRANKEN-STEIN ...
I AM VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND THAT LARGE MAN? NO, IT WOULD BE IMPERTINENT TO TROUBLE YOU FOR DETAILS. ...OH, I STILL HAVE NOT ASKED YOUR NAME.
...
WHAT ARE YOU CALLED?

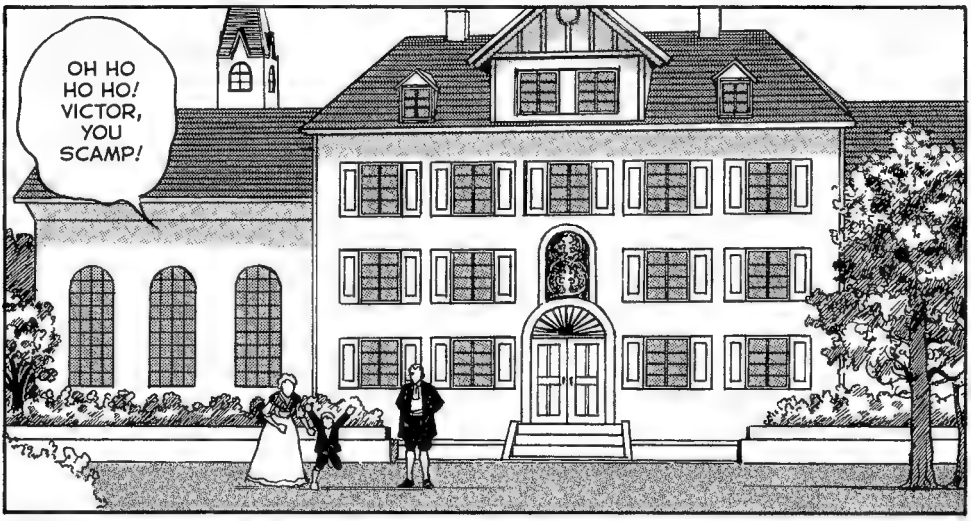
BUT I WILL NOT DIE SO EASILY.
THANK YOU, CAPTAIN WALTON.
YOU'RE STILL NOT COMPLETELY RECOVERED.
MR. FRANKENSTEIN, YOU MUSTN'T PUSH YOURSELF. IF WE ENCOUNTER YOUR MAN, I SHALL INFORM YOU AT ONCE.
I'VE NO DOUBT YOU ARE A WONDERFUL MAN. NO MATTER THE UNPARALLELED MISFORTUNES ONE MIGHT SUFFER, THE EYES ALONE REVEAL ONE'S TRUE NATURE.
MR. FRANKENSTEIN, YOU ARE SO HAGGARD, AND YET YOUR EYES SHINE SO BRIGHTLY.

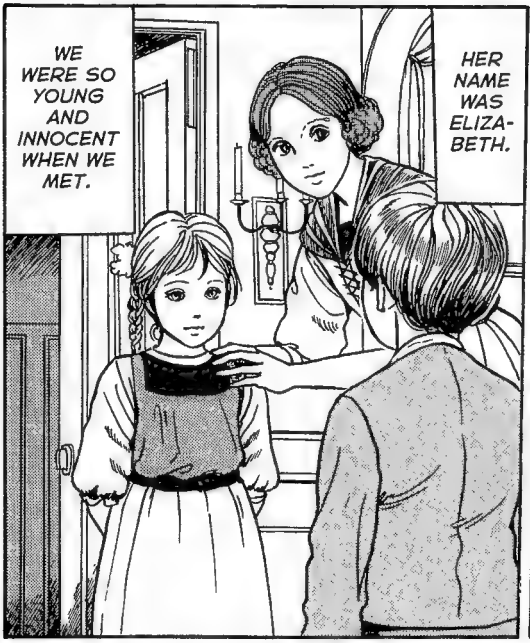
...DON'T YOU THINK IT A RATHER CURIOUS FATE, MR. FRANKENSTEIN? ALTHOUGH OUR INDIVIDUAL AIMS ARE DIFFERENT...
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, ALTHOUGH WE MET BY HAPPENSTANCE IN AN UNEXPECTED PLACE...
PERHAPS SOLVE THE MYSTERIES OF NATURE, THE SOURCE OF GOD'S POWER... IN PARTICULAR, THE WONDROUS POWER THAT ATTRACTS THE NEEDLE.
I'M WAGERING MY LIFE ON THIS EXPEDITION. I'M CERTAIN I SHALL MAKE DISCOVERIES IF I CAN SIMPLY REACH THE POLE.
...WE ARE BOTH RISKING OUR LIVES SEEKING THE NORTH POLE.
HOW CAN IT BE?!
AAAH ...
ASCERTAINING THE SECRET OF MAGNETISM... I'VE NO DOUBT IT IS THE POWER THAT RULES THE WORLD.
YES, THE MYSTERY OF MAGNETISM... UNRAVELING THAT IS MY GREATEST OBJECTIVE.

ARE YOU ABOUT TO ERR? AS I DID BACK THEN...
ARE YOU FEELING POORLY?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MR. FRANKEN-STEIN ?!
UNTIL A FEW YEARS AGO, I BURNED WITH THE SAME AMBITION AS YOU.
YOU SEEK FOR KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM AS I ONCE DID...IT IS ONLY NATURAL FOR A MAN TO PURSUE KNOWLEDGE.
ERR? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
BUT THE RESULT OF THAT IS THIS MAN BEFORE YOU NOW.
WHY WOULD AN EXPEDITION TO FURTHER HUMAN KNOWLEDGE BE IN ERROR?


BECAUSE OF MY MISTAKES, I LOST THE PEOPLE I LOVED MOST.
CAPTAIN WALTON, I SHALL SHARE WITH YOU MY DISASTROUS HISTORY.
I IMAGINE THAT YOU MAY DEDUCE AN APT MORAL FROM MY TALE.
LISTEN CLOSELY.
ALL RIGHT, CAPTAIN WALTON...
...AND HOW I LOST EVERYTHING.
TO HOW GREAT MY AMBITION WAS...


IN EVERY WAY.
...MY CHILDHOOD WAS A HAPPY ONE.


OH HO HO HO! VICTOR, YOU SCAMP!


WE WERE SO YOUNG AND INNOCENT WHEN WE MET.
HER NAME WAS ELIZA-BETH.

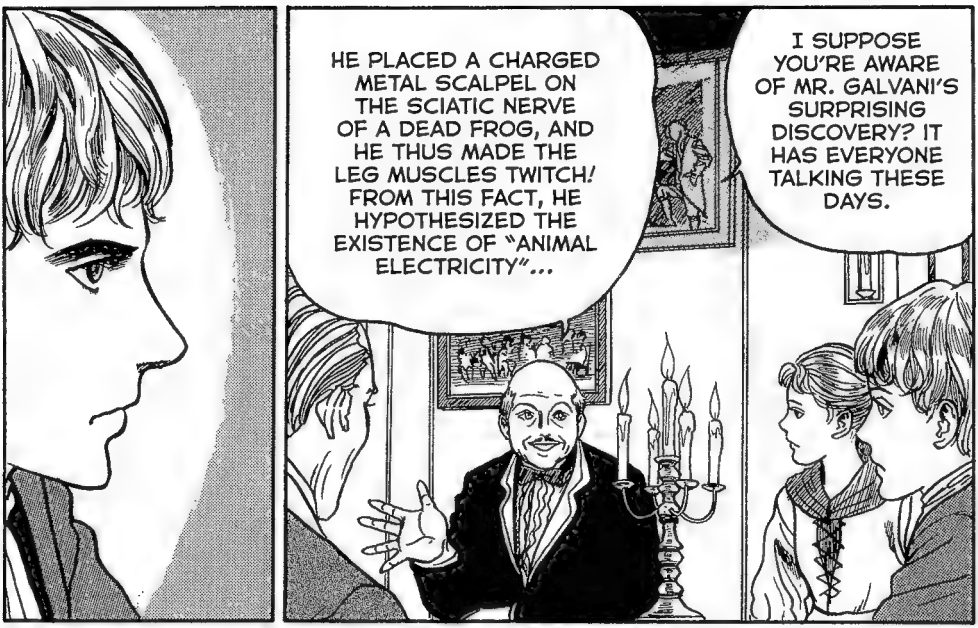
I LIVED WITH MY PARENTS IN THE BEAUTIFUL GENOVESE COUNTRYSIDE, WANTING FOR NOTHING.
WHEN I WAS FIVE, MY MOTHER TOOK IN A FOUNDLING OF NOBLE MILANESE STOCK. THE GIRL FILLED MY HEART WITH JOY.

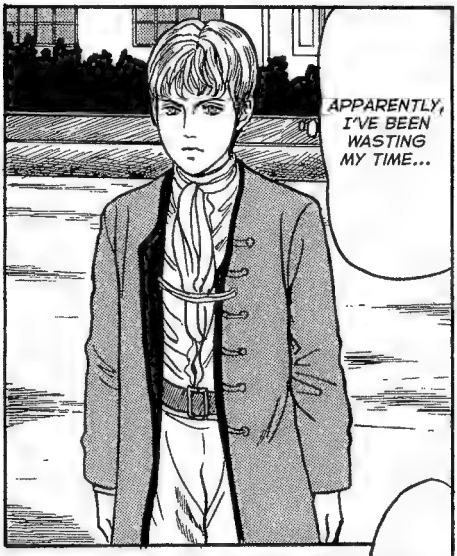
AND I ADORED HER.
SHE UNDER-STOOD ME SO WELL.
AND I HAD THE FRIENDSHIP OF HENRY CLERVAL.
HA HA HA
HEE HEE HEE
SHALL WE PLAY TOGETH-ER?
VICTOR! ELIZABETH!
LET'S PLAY KNIGHTS.
HENRY! ALL RIGHT. WHAT SHALL WE PLAY?

AT AN INN BY THE BATHS NEAR THONON, I PERUSED THE BOOK-SHELVES.
THOUGH STILL A CHILD, I DEVELOPED A PASSION FOR NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.
VICTOR, DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME WITH SUCH SAD TRASH.
CORNELIUS AGRIPPA, IS IT?
FATHER! I FOUND AN INCREDIBLE BOOK!
AND WHAT'S THAT, VICTOR?
I DREAMED OF DISCOVERING THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE, AND THE ELIXIR OF LIFE.
MY FATHER TOLD ME TO STOP, BUT I BECAME UTTERLY OBSESSED WITH THESE BOOKS.

AND THEN I SUPPOSE IT WAS WHEN I WAS ABOUT 15...
FLASH
BOOOOM
CRACKLE CRACKLE CRACKLE
EEEAAAH!
WAAAAAH!
WHAT?! WHAT'S THE MATTER ?!
LIGHTNING! A BOLT OF LIGHTNING STRUCK THE OAK IN THE GARDEN, MOTHER!
OH WILLIAM, HUSH NOW.

NO, NO, MY GOOD SIR.
OH MY, THIS IS TURNING INTO QUITE THE DINNER PARTY. AND WE HAVE SUCH AN IMPORTANT GUEST COME ALL THE WAY TO OUR HOUSE THIS EVENING.
YES, I WAS JUST SURPRISED.
ELIZA-BETH, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?
I SEE... HOW ABOUT IT THEN? THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY. WILL YOU TELL US OF THE LATEST IN NATURAL PHILOSOPHY?
AS YOU KNOW, LIGHTNING IS A FORM OF ELECTRICITY. I'M MAKING A STUDY OF IT.
I'M MERELY A NATURAL PHILOSOPHER. I'M LUCKY TO HAVE WITNESSED A LIGHTNING STRIKE BEFORE MY OWN EYES.
AHA. VERY WELL THEN.
I'D LOVE FOR YOUR WORDS TO BRING HIS MIND INTO THE MODERN AGE.
YOU SEE, OUR ELDEST SON STILL BELIEVES FIRMLY IN THE ANCIENT IDEA OF ALCHEMY.


I SUPPOSE YOU'RE AWARE OF MR. GALVANI'S SURPRISING DISCOVERY? IT HAS EVERYONE TALKING THESE DAYS.
HE PLACED A CHARGED METAL SCALPEL ON THE SCIATIC NERVE OF A DEAD FROG, AND HE THUS MADE THE LEG MUSCLES TWITCH! FROM THIS FACT, HE HYPOTHESIZED THE EXISTENCE OF "ANIMAL ELECTRICITY"...


APPARENTLY, I'VE BEEN WASTING MY TIME...

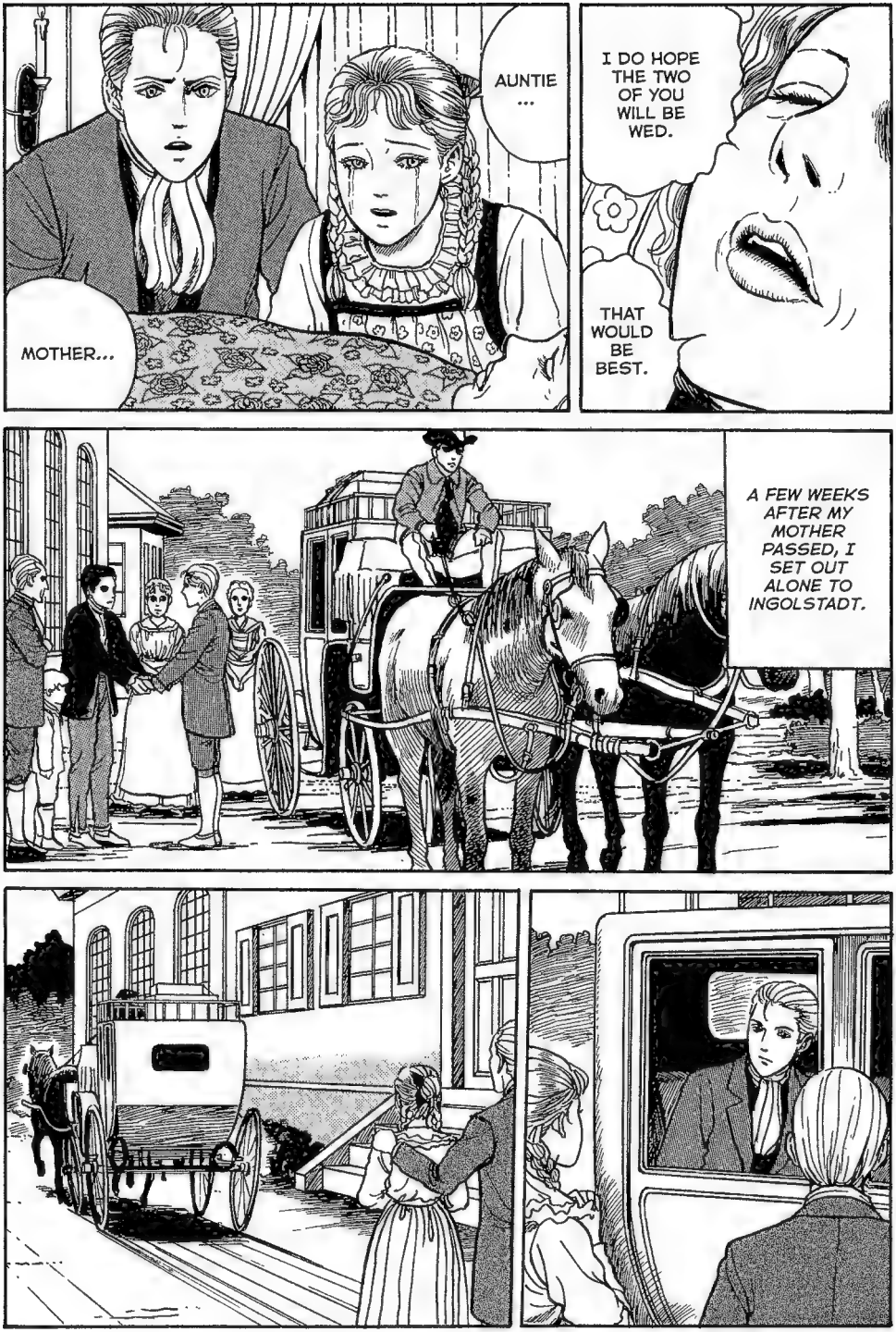
GOOD-BYE...
... ANCIENT DESIRES ...

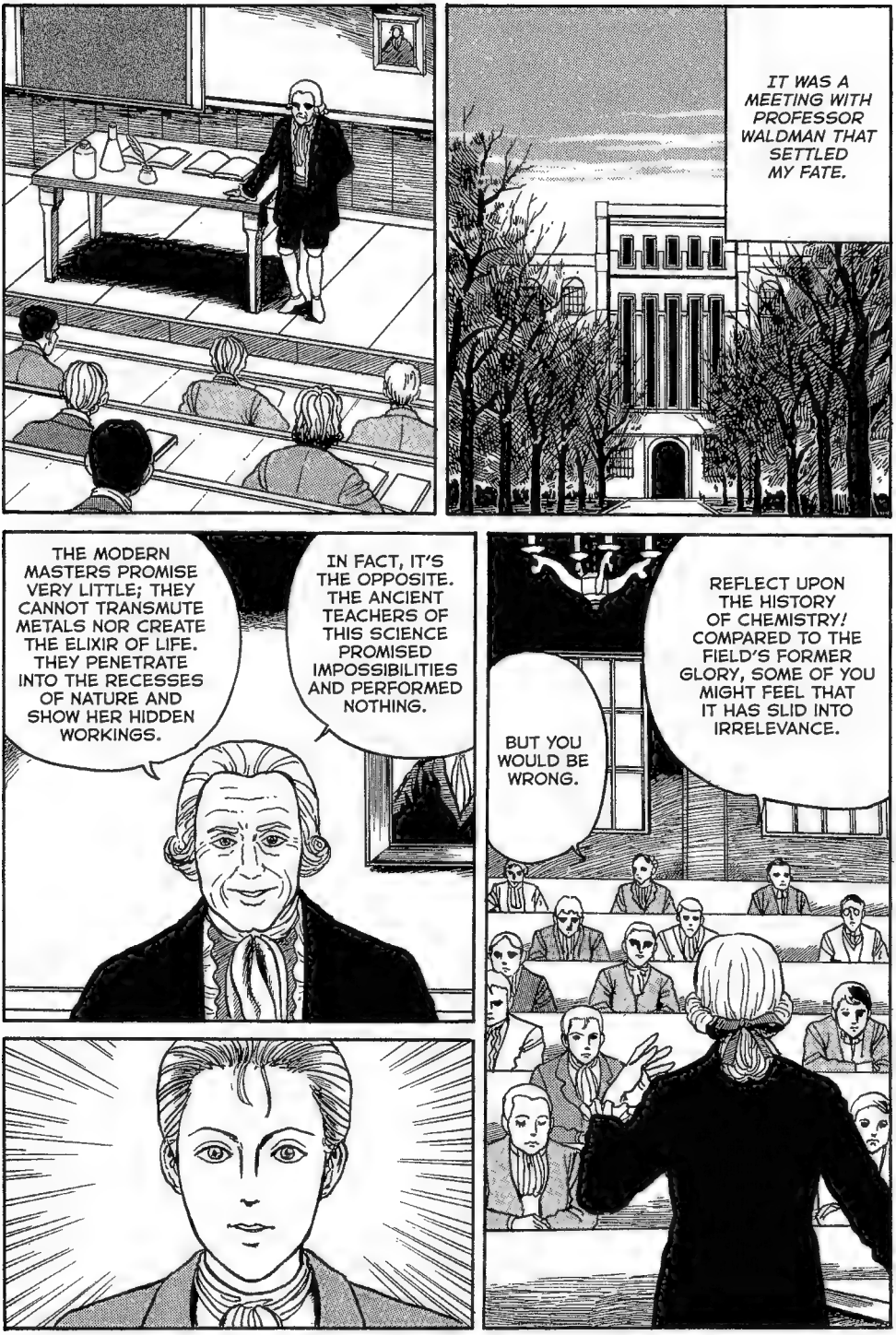
...

HE WOULDN'T? THAT'S TOO BAD, HENRY.
I WANTED TO GO WITH YOU TO UNIVERSITY, BUT MY FATHER WOULDN'T ALLOW IT IN THE END.
I'D HAD A FEELING LIKE THIS SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE, AND EACH TIME I TRIED AVOIDING IT, BUT...
CONGRATULATIONS, VICTOR.
I'VE NO INTENTION OF BECOMING A MERCHANT.
BUT I'M NOT GIVING UP. I'LL DEFINITELY PERSUADE HIM.
NO... SHE'S STILL CONFINED TO BED.
ELIZABETH AND JUSTINE ARE TAKING CARE OF HER NOW.
INCIDENTALLY, VICTOR, I HEARD YOUR MOTHER WAS SICK? IS SHE WELL AGAIN NOW?

MY WHOLE FAMILY LIKES HER.
SHE'S STILL YOUNG, BUT DOES VERY GOOD WORK. SHE CARES QUITE WARMLY FOR MOTHER.
A MAID RECENTLY ARRIVED AT THE HOUSE.
WHO'S JUSTINE?
AH! SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.
MASTER VICTOR!
HER CONDITION HAS ALL OF A SUDDEN—!
WHAT?!
MASTER VICTOR, PLEASE HURRY! IT'S YOUR MOTHER!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, JUSTINE? YOU'RE IN QUITE THE PANIC.

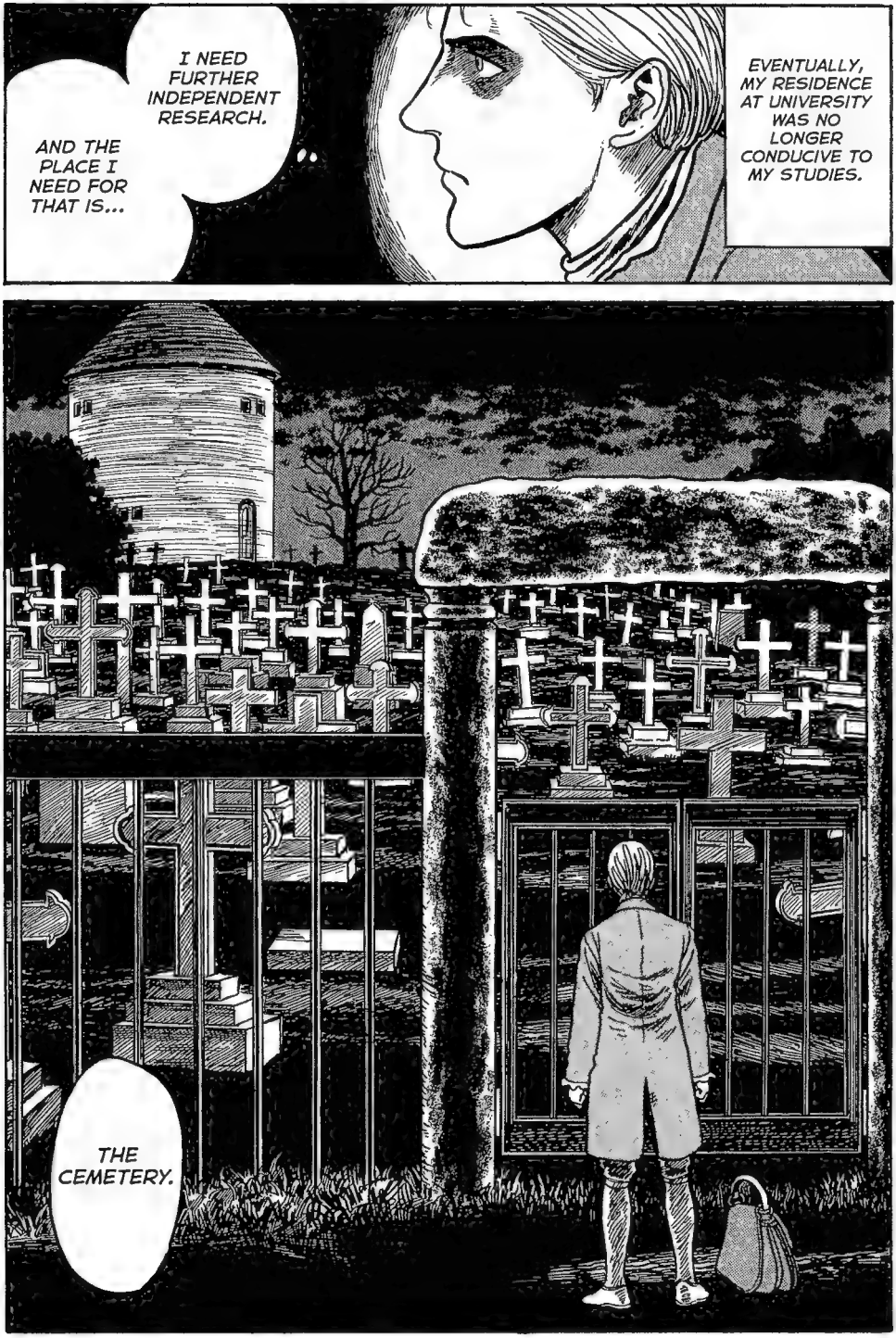
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
MOTHER!
CAROLINE... YOU MUSTN'T TALK LIKE THAT. THE DOCTOR WILL BE HERE ANY MOMENT.
DARLING... LOOK AFTER THE CHILDREN.
VICTOR. ELIZABETH. AND ...
TAKE PARTICULAR CARE OF MY YOUNGEST, WILLIAM.
MAD-AM.
JUSTINE... I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU... STAY WITH THIS FAMILY FOREVER, PLEASE...

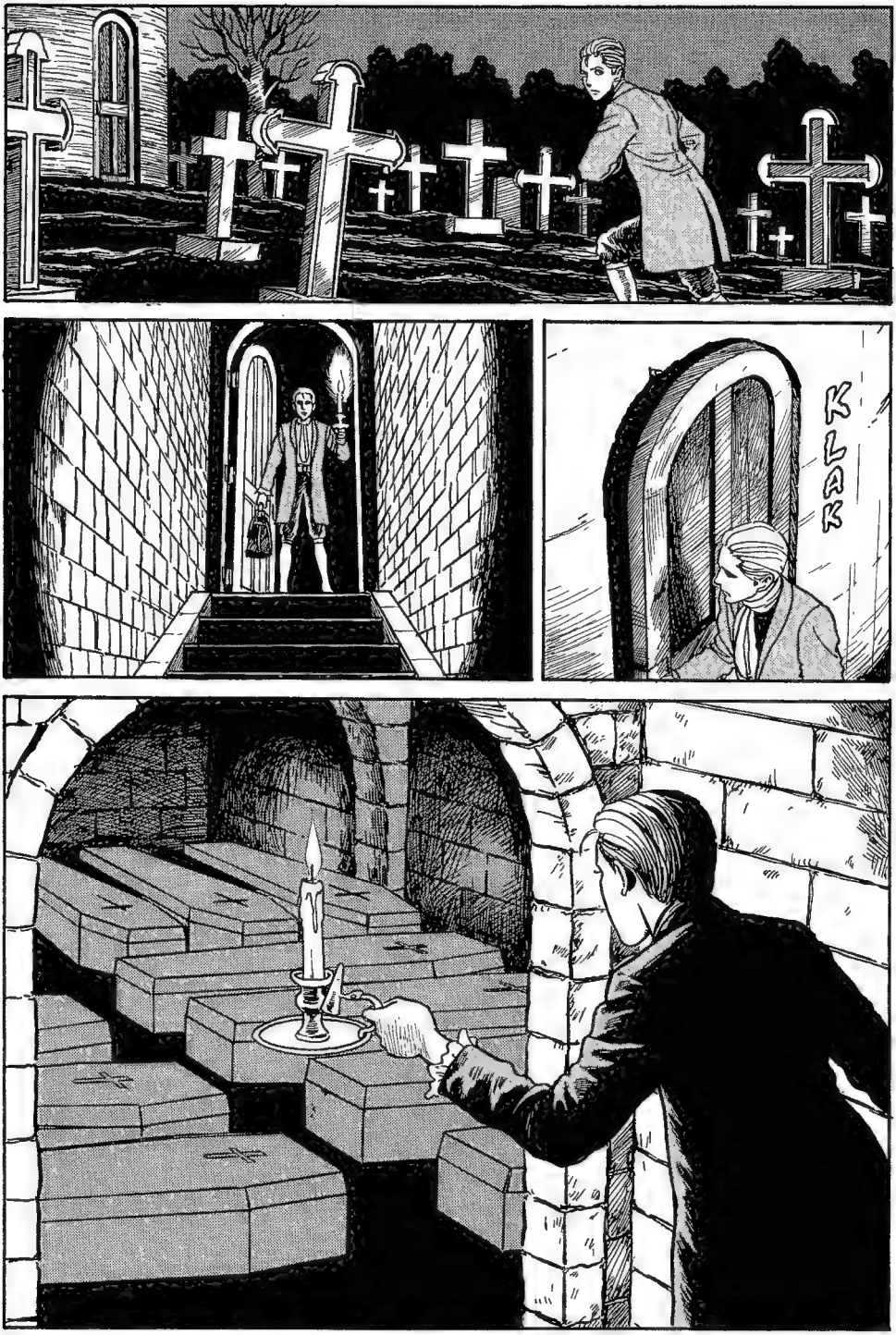

AUNTIE ...
MOTHER...
I DO HOPE THE TWO OF YOU WILL BE WED.
THAT WOULD BE BEST.
A FEW WEEKS AFTER MY MOTHER PASSED, I SET OUT ALONE TO INGOLSTADT.

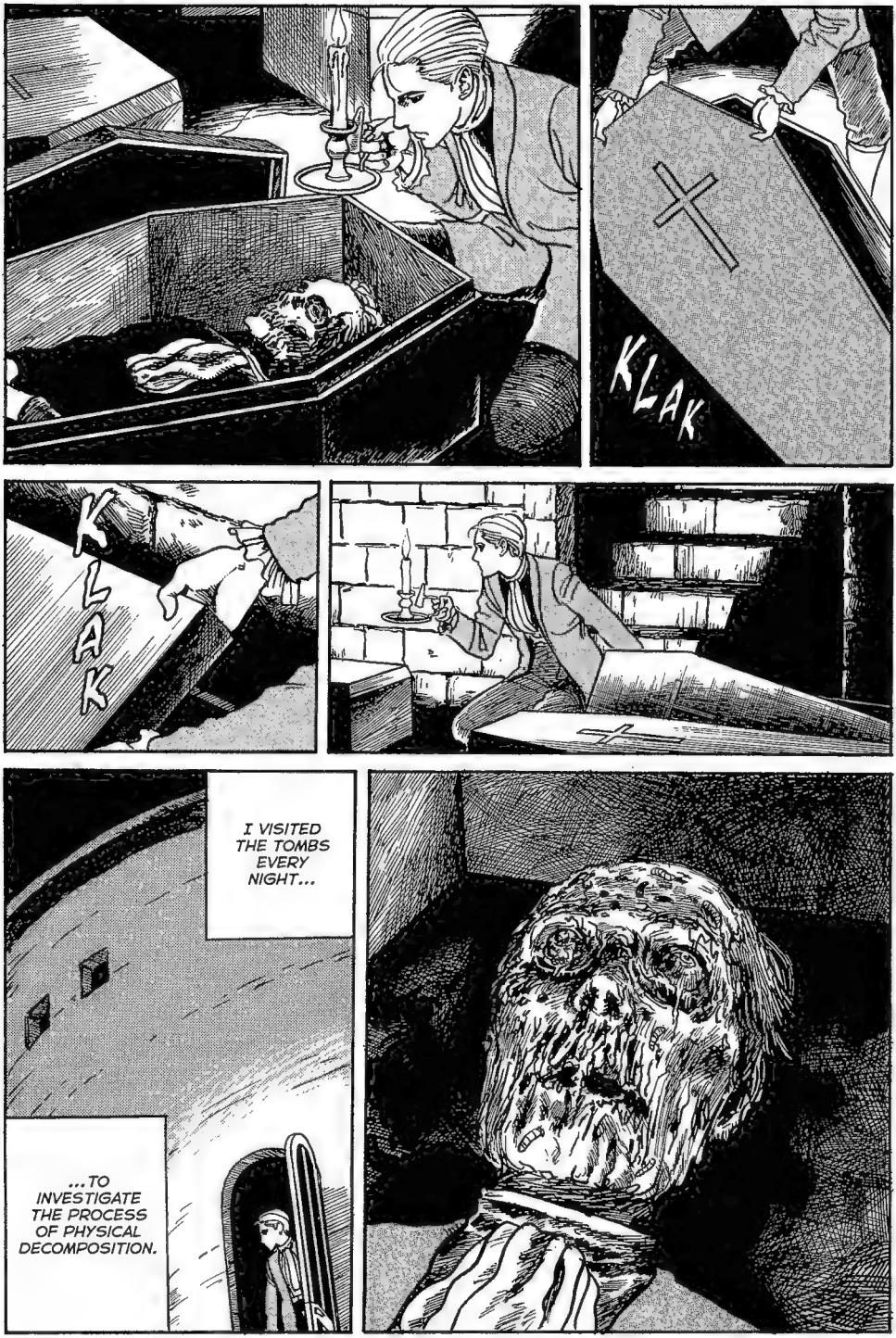

IT WAS A MEETING WITH PROFESSOR WALDMAN THAT SETTLED MY FATE.
THE MODERN MASTERS PROMISE VERY LITTLE; THEY CANNOT TRANSMUTE METALS NOR CREATE THE ELIXIR OF LIFE. THEY PENETRATE INTO THE RECESSES OF NATURE AND SHOW HER HIDDEN WORKINGS.
IN FACT, IT'S THE OPPOSITE. THE ANCIENT TEACHERS OF THIS SCIENCE PROMISED IMPOSSIBILITIES AND PERFORMED NOTHING.
BUT YOU WOULD BE WRONG.
REFLECT UPON THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY! COMPARED TO THE FIELD'S FORMER GLORY, SOME OF YOU MIGHT FEEL THAT IT HAS SLID INTO IRRELEVANCE.

I'M CERTAINLY NOT TRYING TO IMPLY THAT MODERN PHILOSOPHERS MUST HOLD THEIR PREDECESSORS IN DISDAIN.
BUT WHEN I LEARNED THAT THEIR WORK WAS OBSOLETE, IT NEARLY SERVED TO DESTROY ME.
PROFESSOR... YOU MIGHT LAUGH AT THIS, BUT AS A BOY, I BELIEVED IN AGRIPPA AND PARACELSUS.
OH HO...
SHOULD YOU ACCOMPLISH SOME GREAT WORK IN THE FUTURE...
...I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IN THE LEAST IF THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND IT WAS YOUR STUDIES AS A BOY.
THESE ARE MEN TO WHOSE INDEFATIGABLE ZEAL WE ARE INDEBTED FOR MOST OF THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR KNOWLEDGE.
IF THERE ARE ANY APPA-RATUS YOU WISH TO USE, SIMPLY SAY THE WORD.
I CAN SEE YOU HAVE GREAT PROMISE, FRANKENSTEIN. CHEMISTRY IS BUT ONE BRANCH OF NATURAL PHILOSOPHY. IF YOU ARE WILLING TO PUT IN THE WORK, I SHALL NOT SPARE ANY EFFORT IN ASSISTING YOU.
PRO-FES-SOR!

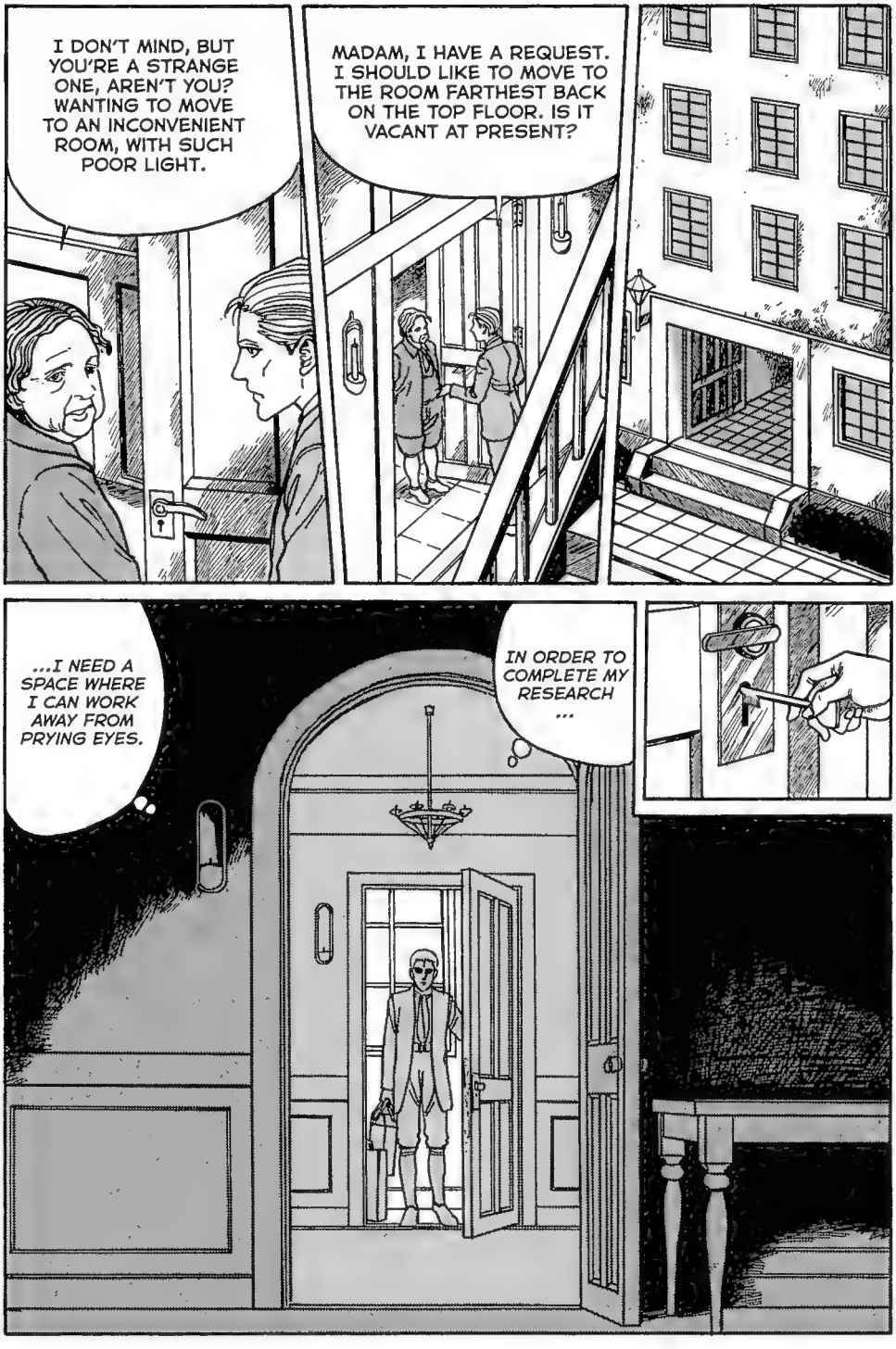
SOMETHING NO ONE ELSE HAS SO FAR MANAGED...
AND IT...
I FEEL AS THOUGH I CAN DO SOMETHING.
AND SO AMBITION BLOSSOMED WITHIN ME.
IT WOULD LEAD TO MY DOWNFALL.
SOMETHING FLASHED IN THE BACK OF MY MIND...
...SHALL NO DOUBT BE STEPPING INTO THE TERRITORY OF A GOD.
MY PROFICIENCY WAS THE ASTONISHMENT OF THE MASTERS.
MY STUDIES GREW ARDENT AND EAGER AFTER THAT.
BUT I CONTINUALLY SOUGHT THE ATTAINMENT OF ONE OBJECT OF PURSUIT AND WAS SOLELY WRAPPED UP IN THIS.

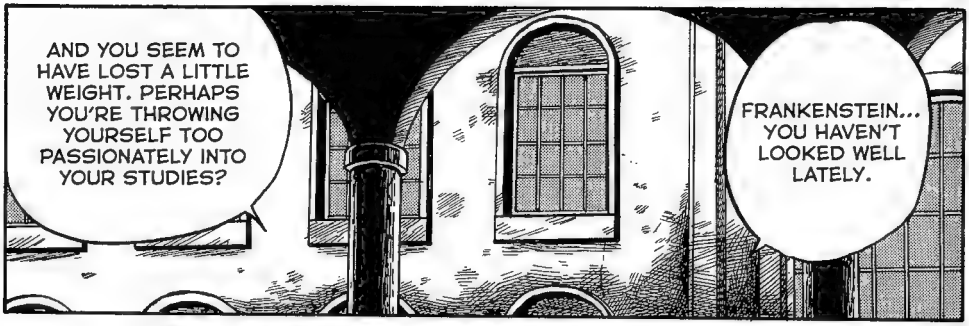

EVENTUALLY, MY RESIDENCE AT UNIVERSITY WAS NO LONGER CONDUCIVE TO MY STUDIES.
I NEED FURTHER INDEPENDENT RESEARCH.
AND THE PLACE I NEED FOR THAT IS...
THE CEMETERY.

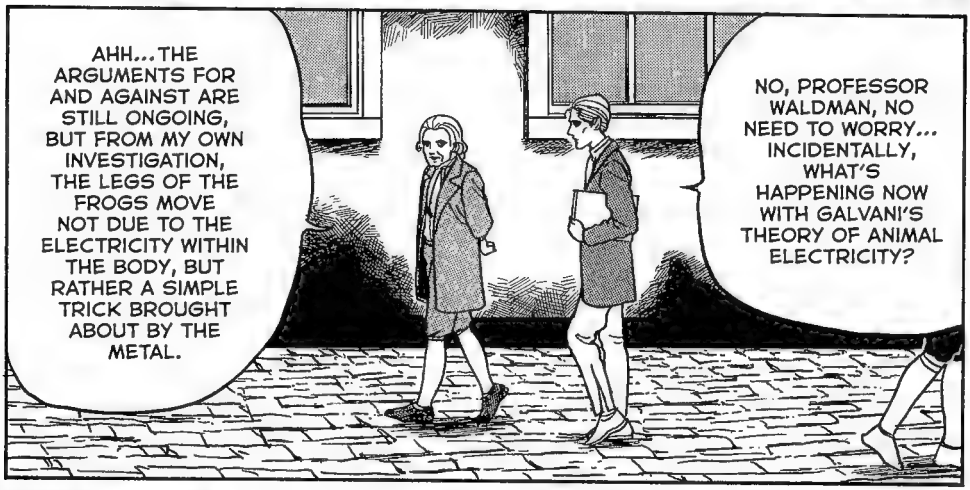

KLAK


KLAK
KLAK
I VISITED THE TOMBS EVERY NIGHT...
...TO INVESTIGATE THE PROCESS OF PHYSICAL DECOMPOSITION.

...I FINALLY...
AND THEN ONE NIGHT...
I FINALLY UNDER-STAND IT.
IT'S SO SIMPLE!
THUMP
SHIVER
I'VE FINALLY DISCOVERED THE SECRET OF LIFE!
OH, DEAR LORD... TONIGHT, I STAND ALONGSIDE YOU!
HA HA HA HA HA!
HEH HEH HEH ...

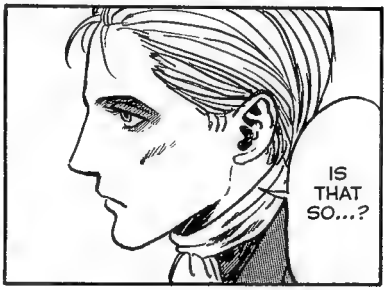

I DON'T MIND, BUT YOU'RE A STRANGE ONE, AREN'T YOU? WANTING TO MOVE TO AN INCONVENIENT ROOM, WITH SUCH POOR LIGHT.
MADAM, I HAVE A REQUEST. I SHOULD LIKE TO MOVE TO THE ROOM FARTHEST BACK ON THE TOP FLOOR. IS IT VACANT AT PRESENT?
...I NEED A SPACE WHERE I CAN WORK AWAY FROM PRYING EYES.
IN ORDER TO COMPLETE MY RESEARCH ...

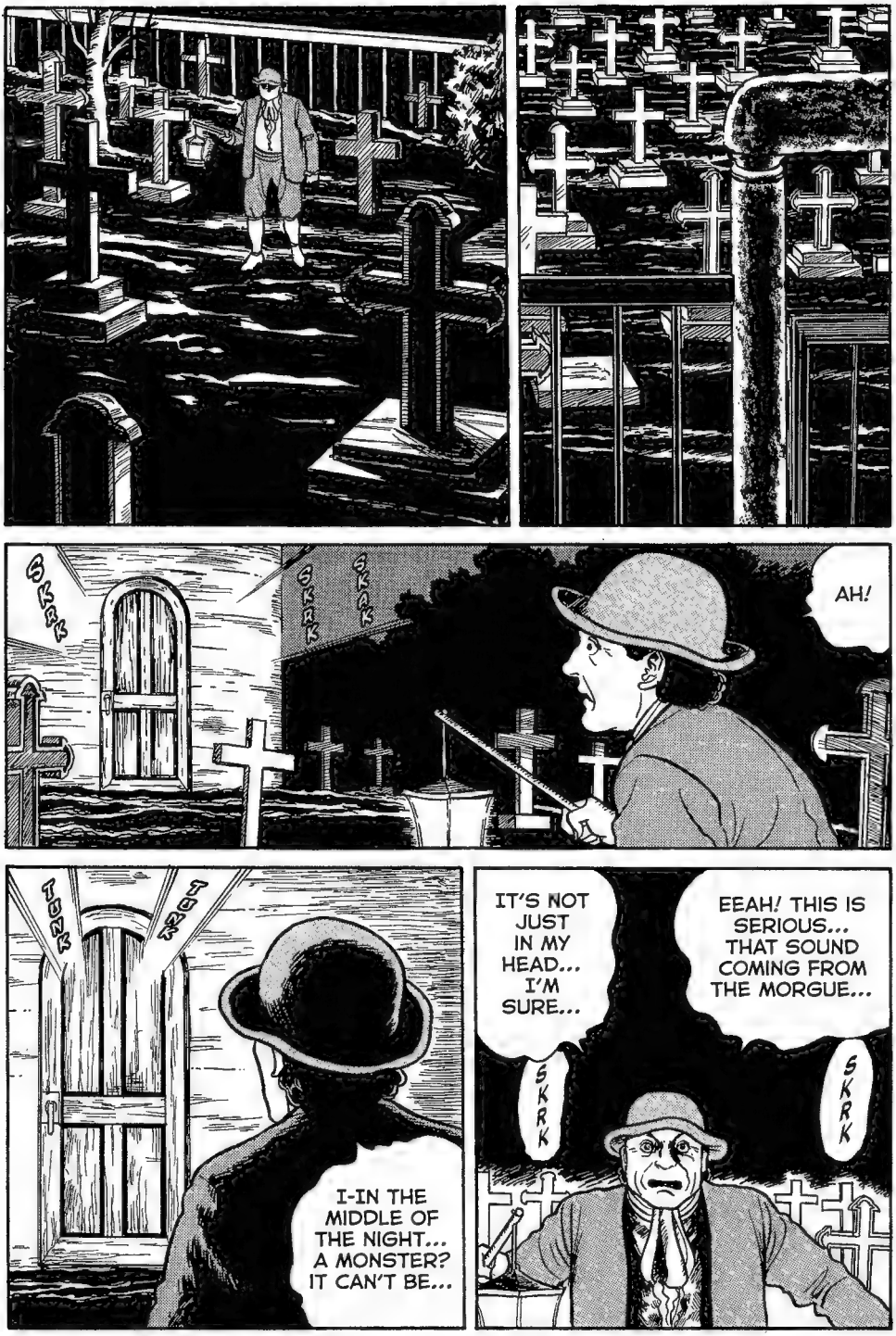

AND YOU SEEM TO HAVE LOST A LITTLE WEIGHT. PERHAPS YOU'RE THROWING YOURSELF TOO PASSIONATELY INTO YOUR STUDIES?
FRANKENSTEIN... YOU HAVEN'T LOOKED WELL LATELY.


AHH... THE ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST ARE STILL ONGOING, BUT FROM MY OWN INVESTIGATION, THE LEGS OF THE FROGS MOVE NOT DUE TO THE ELECTRICITY WITHIN THE BODY, BUT RATHER A SIMPLE TRICK BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE METAL.
NO, PROFESSOR WALDMAN, NO NEED TO WORRY... INCIDENTALLY, WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW WITH GALVANI'S THEORY OF ANIMAL ELECTRICITY?

?
BUT, PROFESSOR... I BELIEVE HIS THEORY IS OF REAL SIGNIFICANCE. ESSENTIALLY, NOT WHETHER OR NOT THE DETAILS ARE CORRECT, BUT WHAT CAN BE EXTRAPOLATED FROM IT.

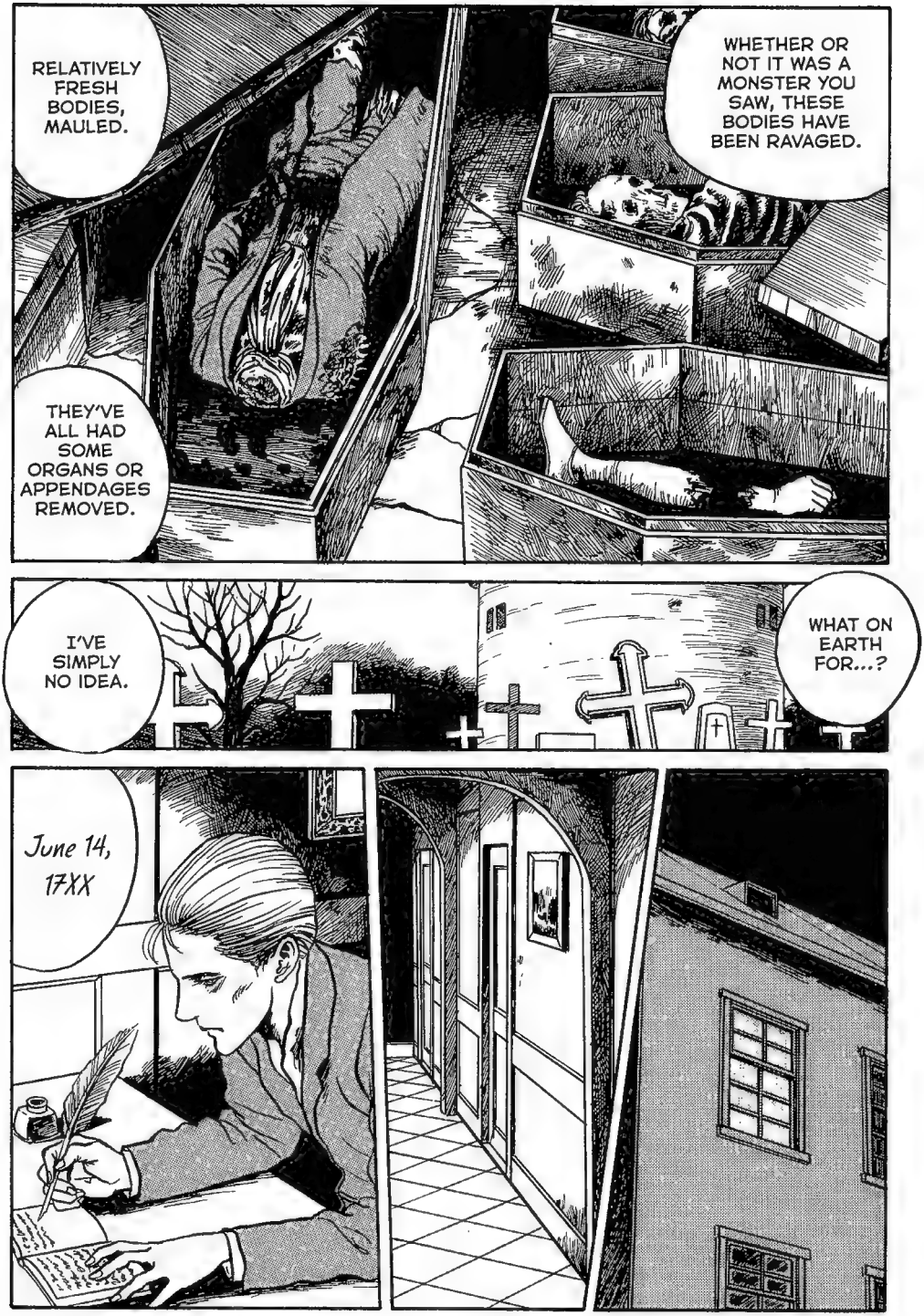
MOST LIKELY, GALVANI'S THEORY IS DESTINED TO BE SUPERSEDED SOON ENOUGH.


IS THAT SO...?


SKRK
SKRK
SKRK
AH!
TONK
TONK
I-IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT... A MONSTER? IT CAN'T BE...
IT'S NOT JUST IN MY HEAD... I'M SURE...
EEAH! THIS IS SERIOUS... THAT SOUND COMING FROM THE MORGUE...
SKRK
SKRK

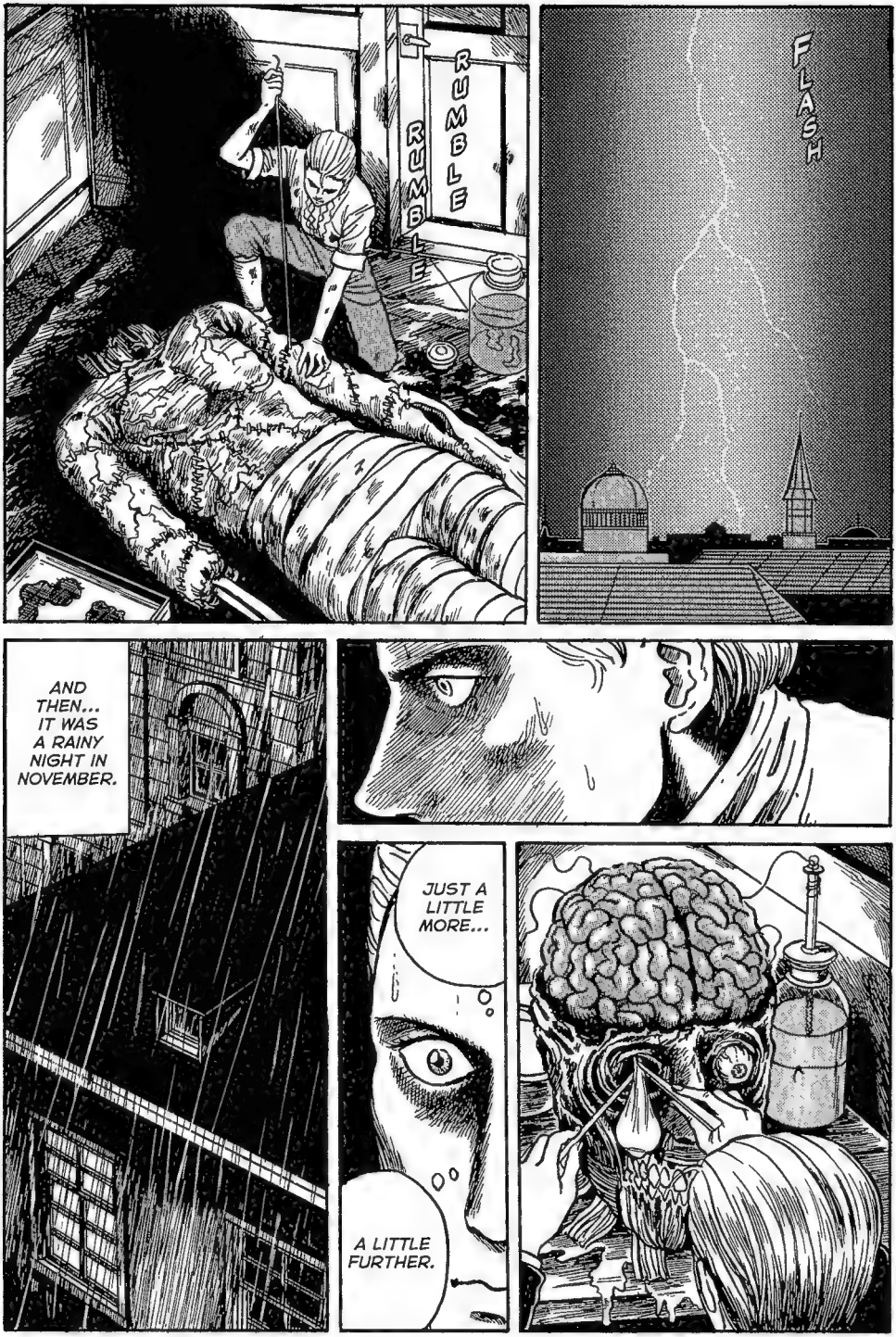
KREE
WH-
WHO'S
THERE?!
AAAAA-
AAAAH!

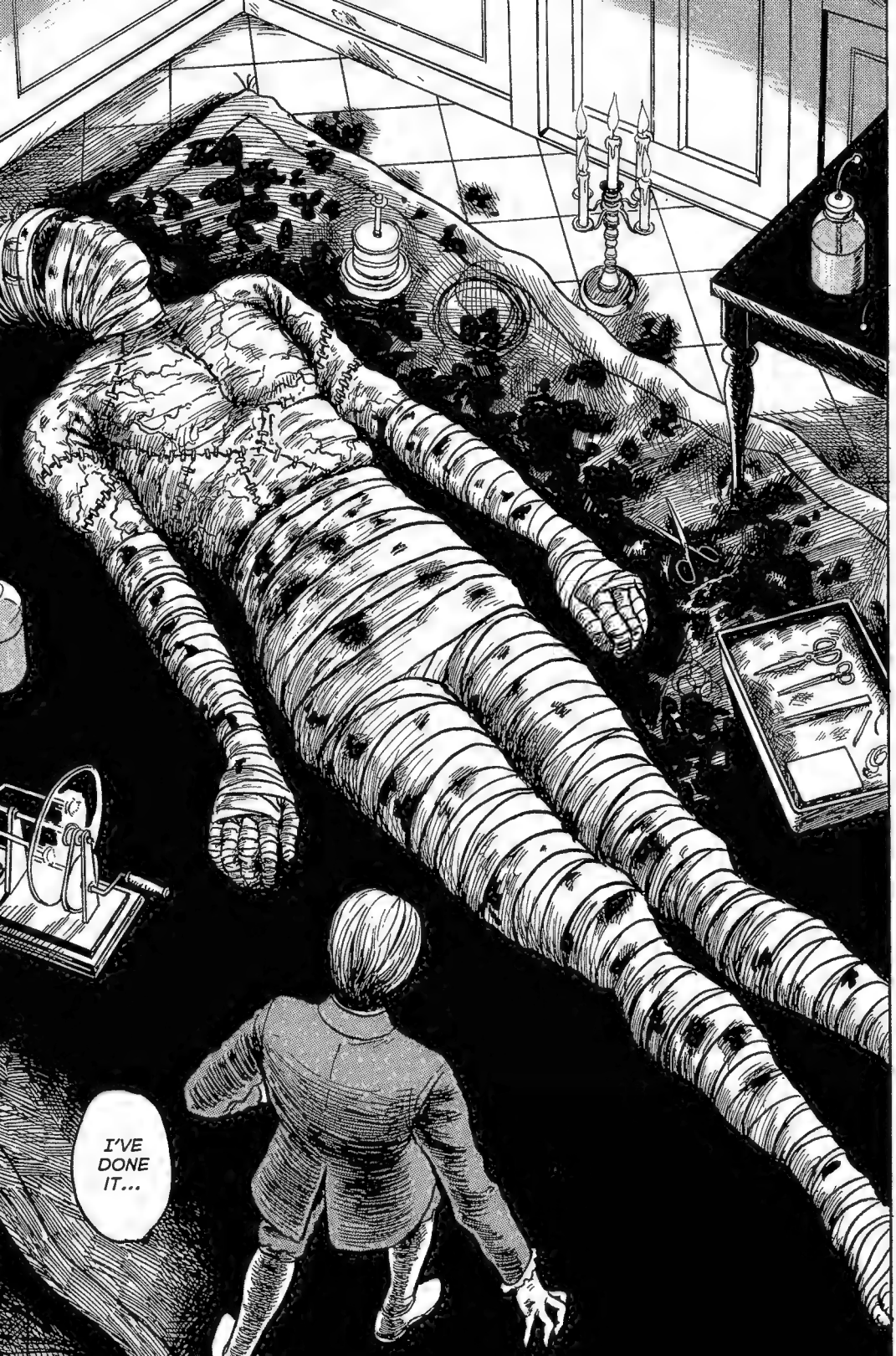
DASH
EEE!
EEEEAH! MONSTER!!
A VAM-PIRE!
IT WAS DEFINITELY A MONSTER.
YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME. ITS FACE WAS COVERED IN BLOOD...
IT'S TRUE!


RELATIVELY FRESH BODIES, MAULED.
WHETHER OR NOT IT WAS A MONSTER YOU SAW, THESE BODIES HAVE BEEN RAVAGED.
THEY'VE ALL HAD SOME ORGANS OR APPENDAGES REMOVED.
I'VE SIMPLY NO IDEA.
WHAT ON EARTH FOR...?
June 14, 17XX

Nor can I use a pre-existing brain.
I shall have to create one ex nihilo.
Now that I know the secret of life, such a feat is possible.
SLAM
I've finally gathered all the materials. The height will be about eight feet...
It's easier to progress with the work when the body is larger.
I have no choice but to use animal organs in place of those I was simply unable to obtain.

SKRK
SKRK
BUT ONCE I ACTUALLY BEGAN THE WORK, IT WAS NOT AS SIMPLE AS I HAD EXPECTED.
START OVER!
SPLCH
DAMMIT!


RUMBLE
RUMBLE
FLASH
AND THEN... IT WAS A RAINY NIGHT IN NOVEMBER.
JUST A LITTLE MORE...
A LITTLE FURTHER.


I'VE DONE IT...

THE IDEAL HUMAN BEING...
I'VE FINALLY COMPLETED IT.
NO, NO...
ISN'T IT... A LITTLE TOO LARGE?
IDEAL ?!
IDEAL...
PH-PHYSICAL BEAUTY? TH-THIS... TWISTED LUMP OF FLESH?!
LOOK... THIS PHYSICAL BEAUTY.
THIS IS THE ULTIMATE CREATION!!
PROTO-TYPE...
PROTOTYPE?! NOT AT ALL!!
A PROTOTYPE IS OFT OVERSIZED.

EEEAAAH!
PSSSSSH

RNK RNK RNK

RNKRNK
KRRRK
CLANG
KLATER
KRK
TWITCH TWITCH

CRASH
UNH...
UNH!

KRRK
EEAAH!

HNNNGH!
HRGH!
AH!
VICTOR.
NGAAAAH!
...
VICTOR, WERE YOU HAVING A NIGHT-MARE?
THIS IS YOUR ROOM.
YOU... HENRY?

THE RAIN HAD JUST LIFTED.
I ARRIVED EARLY YESTERDAY MORNING...
I FINALLY GOT PERMISSION TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I QUICKLY CARRIED YOU TO YOUR ROOM. YOU SLEPT THE WHOLE DAY.
I GOT QUITE THE SURPRISE UPON ARRIVING AT YOUR APARTMENT. YOU WERE SOAKING WET, LYING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET!
LEAP
VICTOR! WHAT'S THE MATTER?!
YES. HOW ILL YOU ARE! WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS?
A WHOLE DAY?!

YOU... DID YOU GO INTO THIS ROOM?
HENRY ...
VICTOR!
DID YOU SEE ANY-THING ?
M-MM... SO... DID YOU...
SHOULD I NOT HAVE?
I DID... THE DOOR WAS OPEN.
THEN THERE WAS NOTHING IN THERE?
WHAT? THEN...
WHAT KIND OF EXPERIMENTS HAVE YOU BEEN DOING EXACTLY? INSTRUMENTS ARE ALL SCATTERED ABOUT. AND ANIMAL BLOOD'S COATING EVERY-THING.
IT'S IN QUITE THE STATE IN THERE...

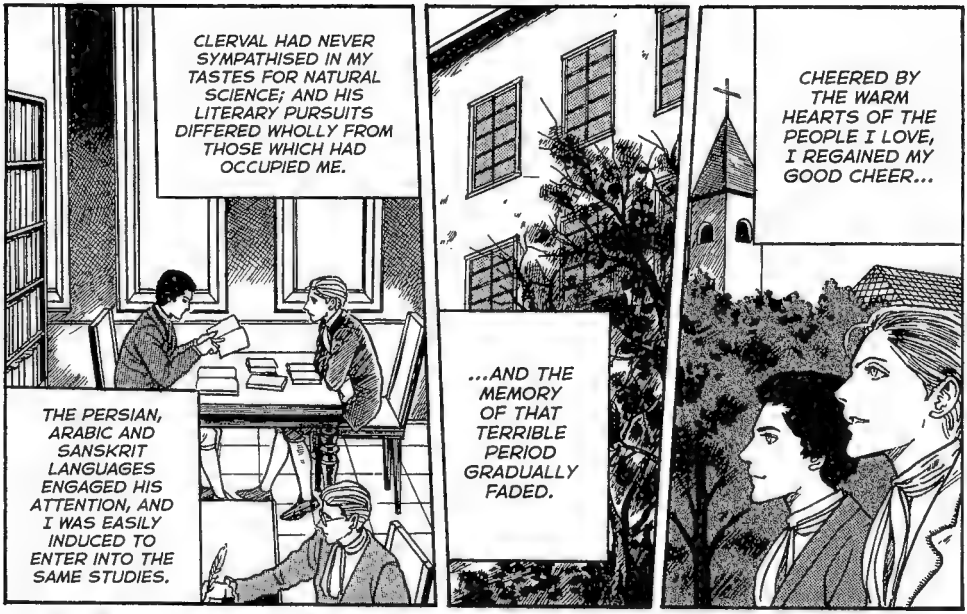
YOU MEAN TEST ANIMALS?
NOTHING IN THERE?
...RUN OFF THEN...
HE MUST HAVE...
VICTOR.
THE MONSTER MUST HAVE WANDERED OFF SOMEWHERE DURING THAT TIME...
UNABLE TO ENDURE THE DISGUSTING NATURE OF THE MONSTER I CREATED IN THIS ROOM THAT NIGHT, I RAN OUTSIDE.
AND THEN I APPARENTLY LOST CONSCIOUSNESS ON THE STREET OUT FRONT.

WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
HEH... HEH HEH!
HE'S NO LONGER HERE.
YOU'RE COMPLETELY EMACIATED.
VICTOR, WHAT'S THE MATTER? DID SOMETHING BAD HAPPEN?
HE... THAT MONSTER HAS TO BE DEAD!
IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR SUCH A REPULSIVE CREATURE TO LIVE LONG.
CRUMPL
N-NO... IT'S NOTH-ING...
YOU HAVE A TERRIBLE FEVER.
AH! VICTOR! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
AFTER THAT, I WAS CONFINED TO BED FOR MORE THAN SIX MONTHS.

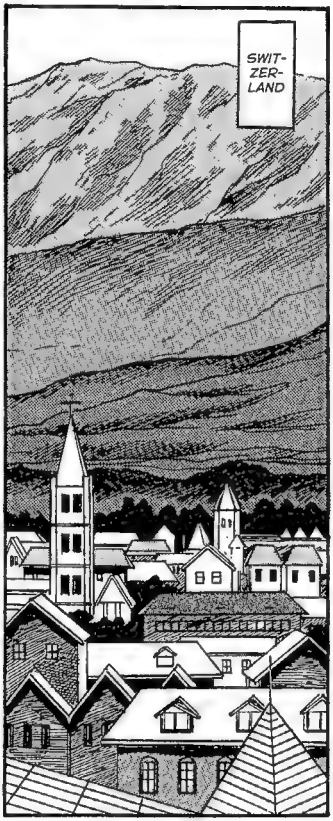
BUT THANKS TO THE DEVOTED CARE OF MY GOOD FRIEND HENRY CLERVAL...
...I GRADUALLY RECOVERED.
HENRY.
I HAVE NO IDEA HOW I CAN THANK YOU.
THANK YOU...
VICTOR, BREAKFAST.
WHAT IS IT?
OH?
IN ANY CASE... THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT...
I'M JUST HAPPY THAT YOU'RE WELL.
YOU CAME TO GERMANY TO STUDY AT UNIVERSITY, AND YOU'VE WASTED THESE LAST FEW MONTHS CARING FOR ME.

AND ELIZABETH... I CAN HARDLY STAND TO SEE HER SO DEPRESSED.
YOUR FAMILY IS A LITTLE UNEASY THAT THEY HEAR FROM YOU SO SELDOM.
YOU ARE, OF COURSE, HERE TO PURSUE YOUR STUDIES, BUT I WISH YOU'D REMEMBER YOUR HOME OCCASIONALLY.
OF COURSE NOT! THERE'S NO WAY I'D FORGET HER. NOT FOR ONE MOMENT.
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT ELIZABETH, CAN YOU?
RRIP
OH! A LETTER FROM ELIZABETH!
IT ARRIVED WHILE YOU WERE STILL ILL.
WONDERFUL... THEN WRITE AN ANSWER TO THIS LETTER.

You are forbidden to hold a pen, yet one word from you, Victor, is needed to calm my apprehension.
My dearest Cousin, You have been ill, very ill, and even the letters of kind Henry are not sufficient to reassure me on your account.
I would very much like to rush to your side to care for you even now. Please do forgive me for not being able to come visit you.
WILLIAM'S FIVE NOW.
APPARENTLY, HE'S QUITE FOND OF THE MAID JUSTINE.
HM... SHE HAS MUCH TO SAY. ABOUT FATHER, ABOUT LITTLE BROTHER WILLIAM.
WHAT DOES SHE SAY?
AHH... SWEET ELIZABETH!!
YES, GOOD IDEA.
HENRY, I SHALL WRITE A REPLY STRAIGHT-AWAY !!

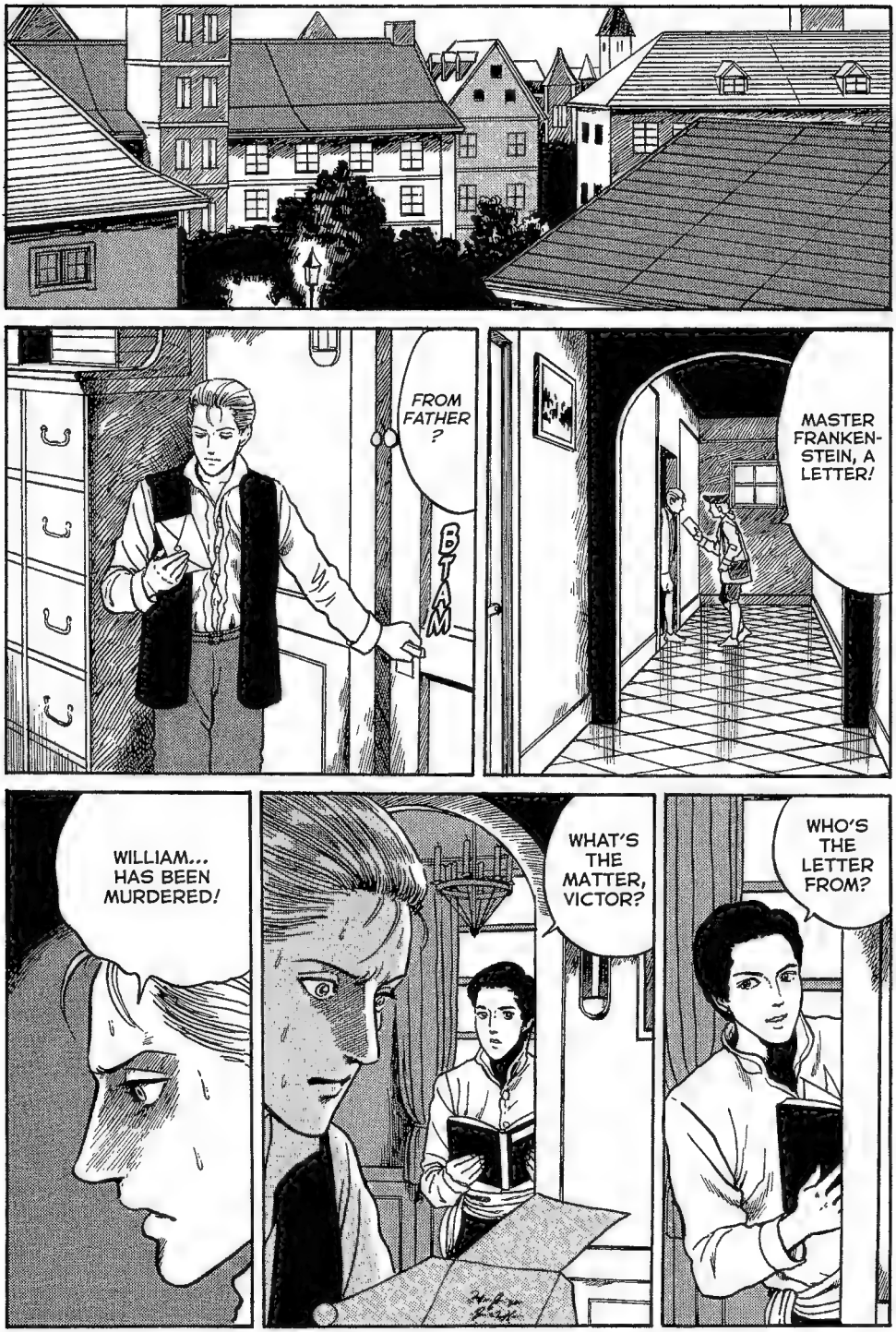

CLERVAL HAD NEVER SYMPATHISED IN MY TASTES FOR NATURAL SCIENCE; AND HIS LITERARY PURSUITS DIFFERED WHOLLY FROM THOSE WHICH HAD OCCUPIED ME.
THE PERSIAN, ARABIC AND SANSKRIT LANGUAGES ENGAGED HIS ATTENTION, AND I WAS EASILY INDUCED TO ENTER INTO THE SAME STUDIES.
...AND THE MEMORY OF THAT TERRIBLE PERIOD GRADUALLY FADED.
CHEERED BY THE WARM HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE I LOVE, I REGAINED MY GOOD CHEER...

HA HA HA HA HA!

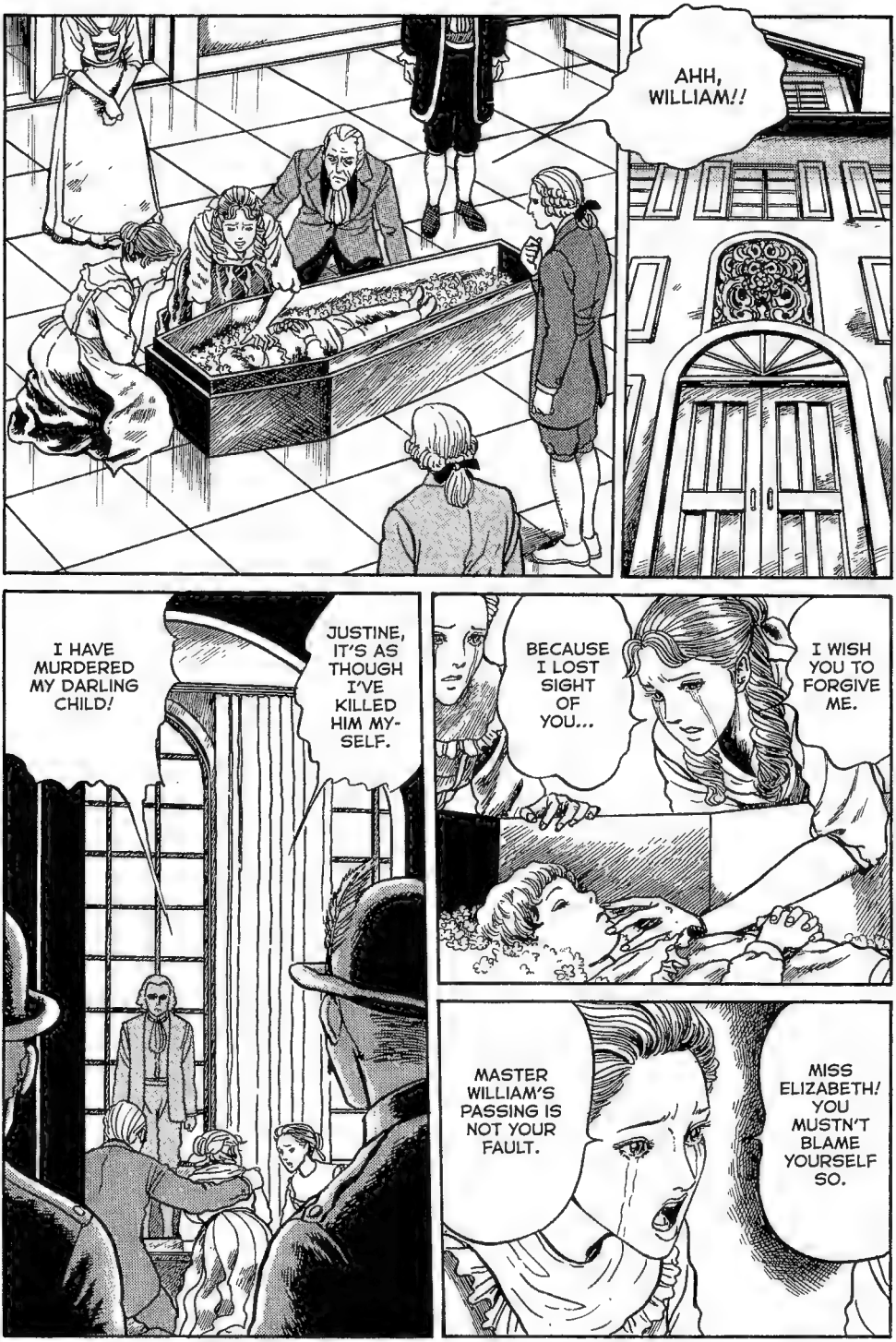

SWIT-ZER-LAND

THIS?
WELL, YOU SEE...
SAY, ELIZABETH? WHAT'S THAT?
ALL RIGHT, BUT DON'T LOSE IT. IT'S VERY PRECIOUS.
AH! LET ME HAVE IT! LET ME SEE!
THIS IS A PENDANT ENGRAVED WITH THE IMAGE OF YOUR LATE MOTHER.
YOU STOP RIGHT THERE!
HA HA HA! DON'T GO TOO FAR, WILLIAM.
OH! COME NOW!
IT'S MINE!

WILLIAM!
HONESTLY! WHERE ARE YOU?!
?!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

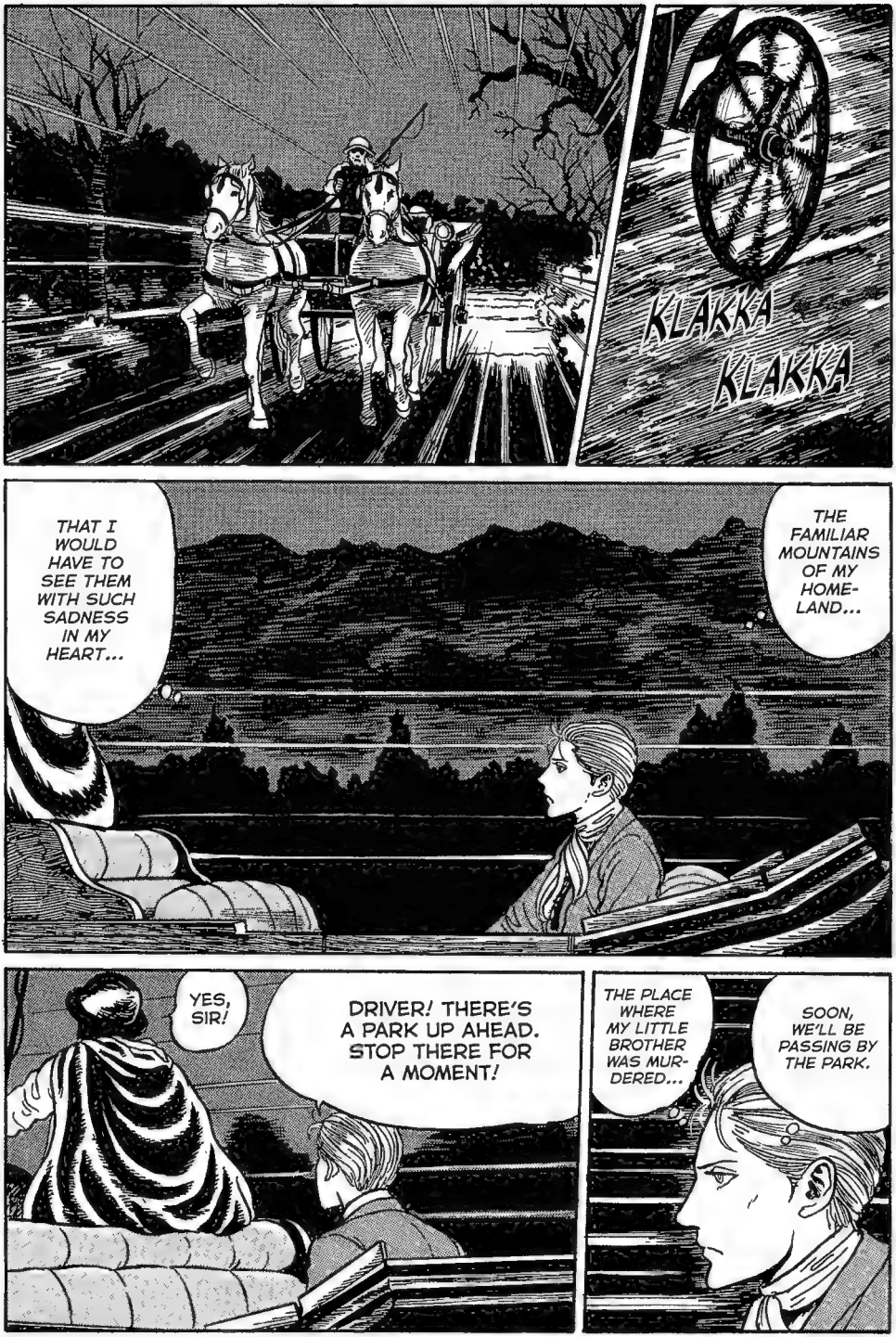

FROM FATHER?
BTAM
MASTER FRANKEN-STEIN, A LETTER!
WILLIAM... HAS BEEN MURDERED!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, VICTOR?
WHO'S THE LETTER FROM?

SOMEONE WITH THE SOUL OF A DEMON! BUT, VICTOR, THE SOLE CONSOLATION IS THAT...
WHO ON EARTH COULD HAVE KILLED HIM...?
...WILLIAM SLEEPS IN PEACE WITH HIS MOTHER NOW.
POOR WILLIAM!
THAT SUCH AN ADORABLE CHILD SHOULD SUFFER SUCH A BRUTAL DEATH!
HAH!
HENRY, THE CARRIAGE IS HERE. I'M GOING NOW.
I'VE NO IDEA WHEN I'LL BE ABLE TO RETURN TO UNIVERSITY. I ASK THAT YOU TAKE CARE OF THINGS HERE.


AHH, WILLIAM!!
I HAVE MURDERED MY DARLING CHILD!
JUSTINE, IT'S AS THOUGH I'VE KILLED HIM MY-SELF.
BECAUSE I LOST SIGHT OF YOU...
I WISH YOU TO FORGIVE ME.
MASTER WILLIAM'S PASSING IS NOT YOUR FAULT.
MISS ELIZABETH! YOU MUSTN'T BLAME YOURSELF SO.

WHO ON EARTH IS IT?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?! HAVE YOU ARRESTED HIM?
WE HAVE DISCOVERED THE MURDERER.
MR. FRANKENSTEIN.
I'D ASK THAT YOU KINDLY HAND OVER YOUR MAID, JUSTINE MORITZ.
WE HAVE COME TO ARREST THE PERPETRATOR NOW.
W-WHAT?!
THIS.
YOU SAY JUSTINE IS THE MURDERER?!
I'D HAVE YOU BE SERIOUS... I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE SOME PROOF?!

YES... I DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER TO DISCUSS THIS WITH YOU, SIR, BEFORE MAKING THE REPORT.
YOU... THIS WAS FOUND IN HER APPAREL, YES?
WE WERE SO SCARED ...
WE HAD A REPORT FROM ANOTHER SERVANT THAT IT CAME FROM THE POCKET OF THE VERY JUSTINE MORITZ WHO STANDS THERE.
THE PENDANT YOUR SON WORE AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT.
THAT'S RIGHT. JUSTINE COULD NEVER DO SUCH A TERRIBLE THING!
W-WHY... I KNOW NOTHING OF THIS... THERE'S BEEN SOME MISTAKE.
AHH... PLEASE BELIEVE ME, SIR. I DID NOTHING WRONG.
NOW!! COME.
JUSTINE!
IT'S UNFORTUNATE, BUT I'LL HAVE YOU TESTIFY TO THAT IN COURT.
I AGREE. TO BEGIN WITH, THAT NIGHT SHE STAYED WITH HER AUNT IN THE NEIGHBORING VILLAGE!!

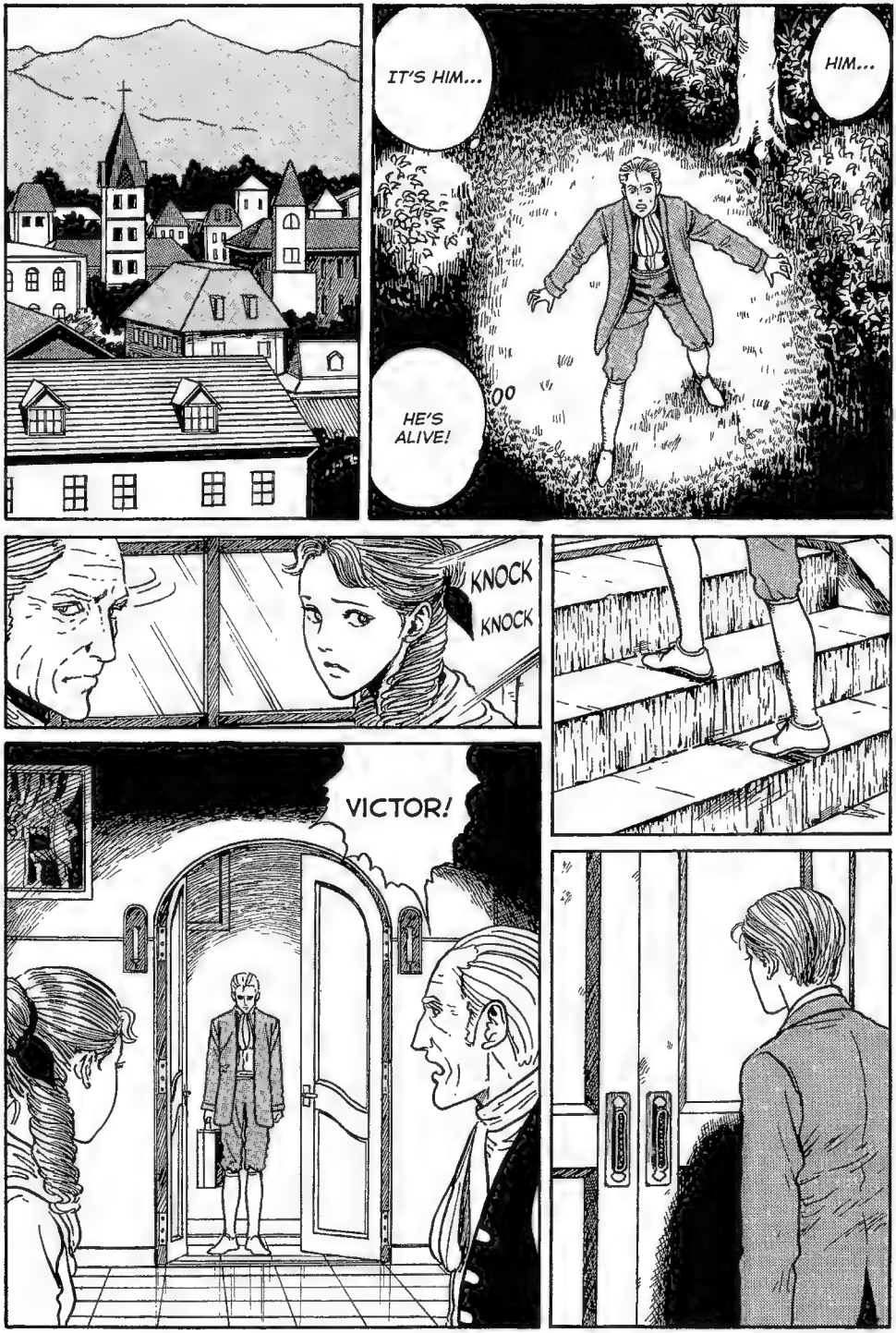

KLAKKA
KLAKKA
THAT I WOULD HAVE TO SEE THEM WITH SUCH SADNESS IN MY HEART...
THE FAMILIAR MOUNTAINS OF MY HOME-LAND...
YES, SIR!
DRIVER! THERE'S A PARK UP AHEAD. STOP THERE FOR A MOMENT!
THE PLACE WHERE MY LITTLE BROTHER WAS MUR-DERED...
SOON, WE'LL BE PASSING BY THE PARK.

KSH
I'LL BE BACK IN A MOMENT. WAIT HERE.
WHINNY
RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE
WILLIAM DIED IN THIS PARK.

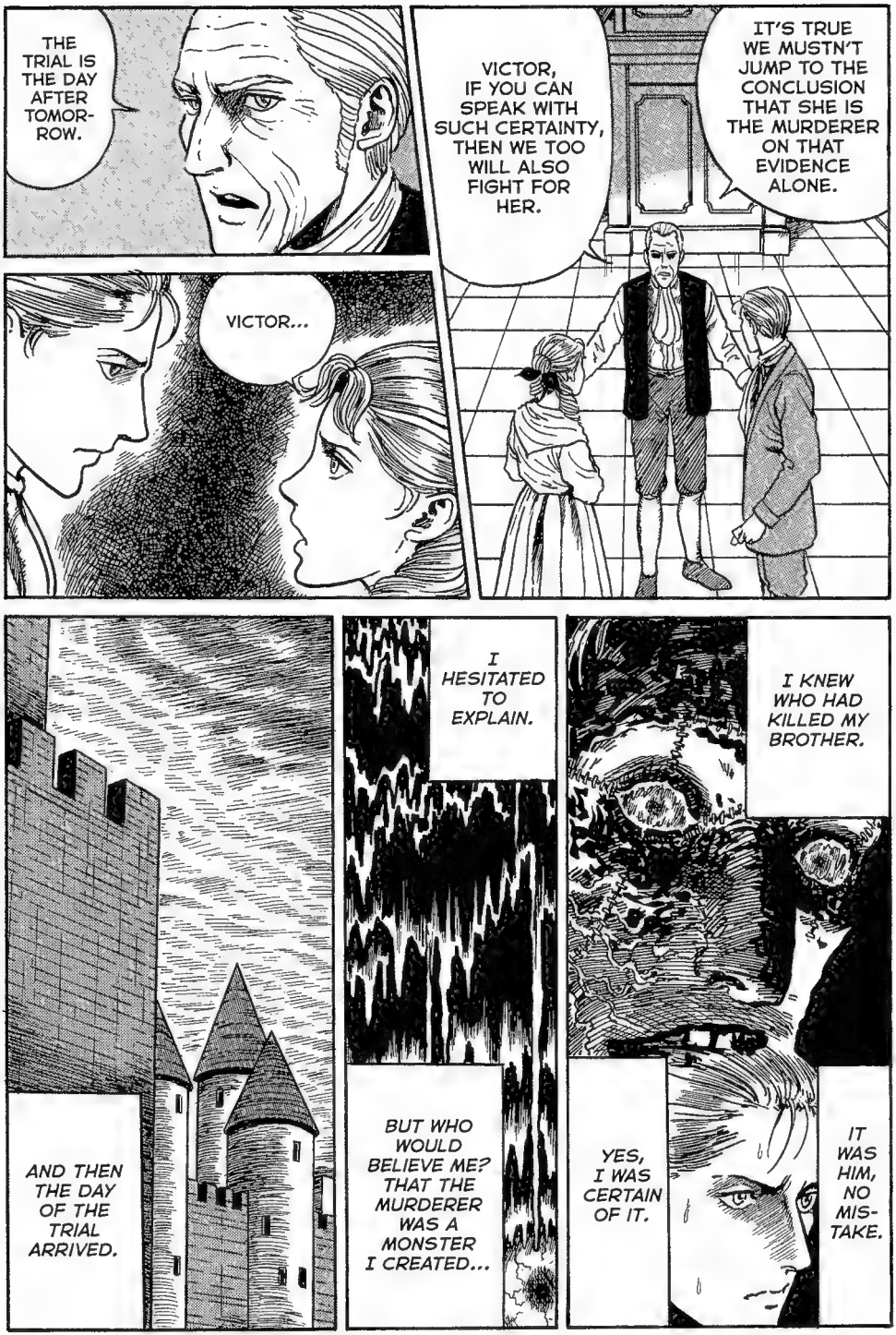
DARE I THINK...I KNOW WHO KILLED MY BABY BROTHER?!
DAM-MIT!
THUD
RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE
RUSTLE RUSTLE
WHO'S THERE ?!

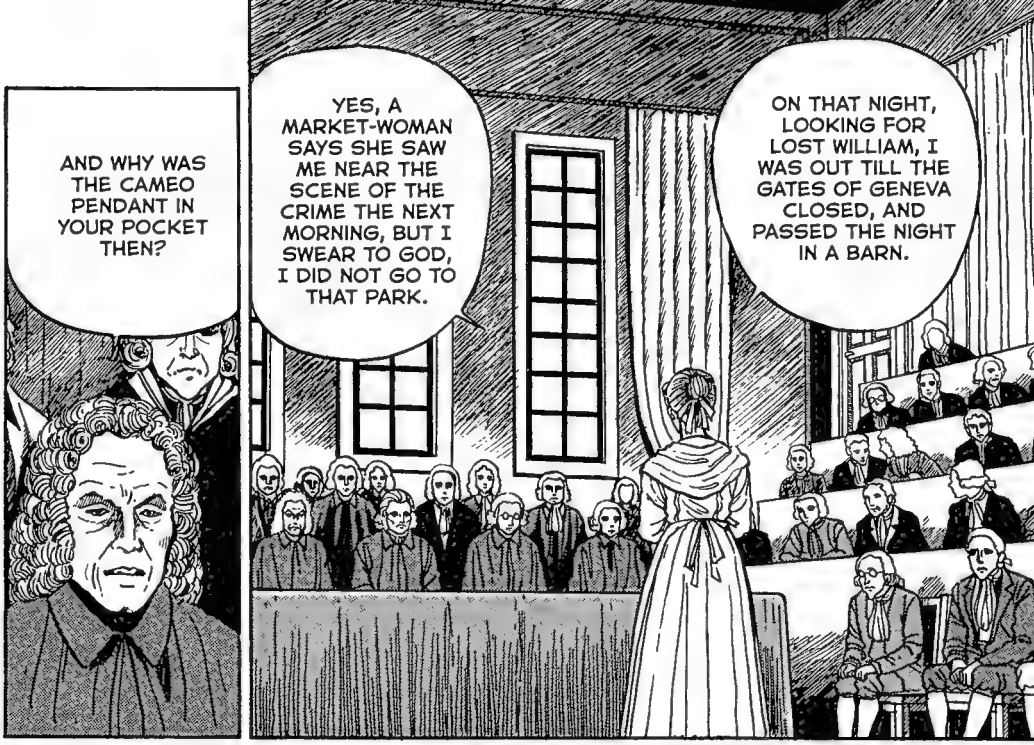
FLASH
BOOOOM
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

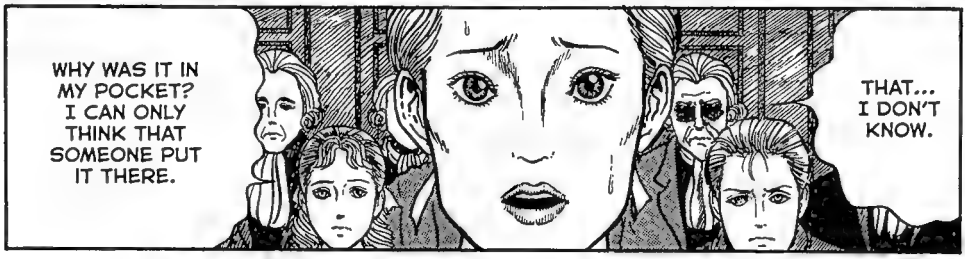
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
KRNCH

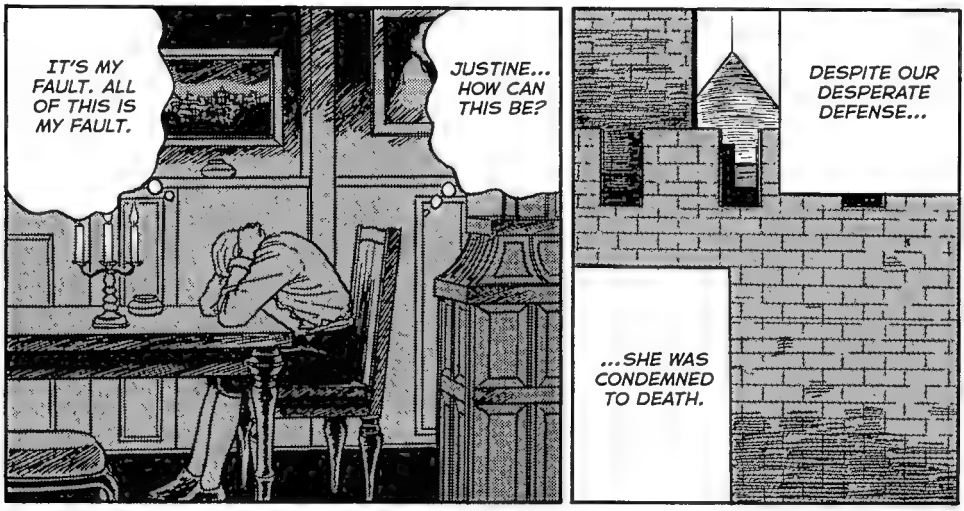

IT'S HIM...
HIM...
HE'S ALIVE!
KNOCK KNOCK
VICTOR!

...BUT REGRETTABLY, IT SEEMS WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BELIEVE IT, GIVEN ALL THE EVIDENCE.
THAT'S RIGHT, VICTOR! I SIMPLY CANNOT BELIEVE IT!
WHAT?! JUSTINE ?!
YOU ARE ALL MISTAKEN.
NO...
I THOUGHT OF HER LIKE FAMILY, AND NOW THIS...
SHE WAS SEEN NEAR THE SCENE AT THE TIME OF THE CRIME.
WELL ...
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, VICTOR... CAN YOU PROVE HER INNOCENCE?
I KNOW THE MURDERER.
JUSTINE IS INNOCENT!


THE TRIAL IS THE DAY AFTER TOMOR-ROW.
VICTOR, IF YOU CAN SPEAK WITH SUCH CERTAINTY, THEN WE TOO WILL ALSO FIGHT FOR HER.
IT'S TRUE WE MUSTN'T JUMP TO THE CONCLUSION THAT SHE IS THE MURDERER ON THAT EVIDENCE ALONE.
VICTOR...
AND THEN THE DAY OF THE TRIAL ARRIVED.
I HESITATED TO EXPLAIN.
BUT WHO WOULD BELIEVE ME? THAT THE MURDERER WAS A MONSTER I CREATED...
I KNEW WHO HAD KILLED MY BROTHER.
YES, I WAS CERTAIN OF IT.
IT WAS HIM, NO MIS-TAKE.

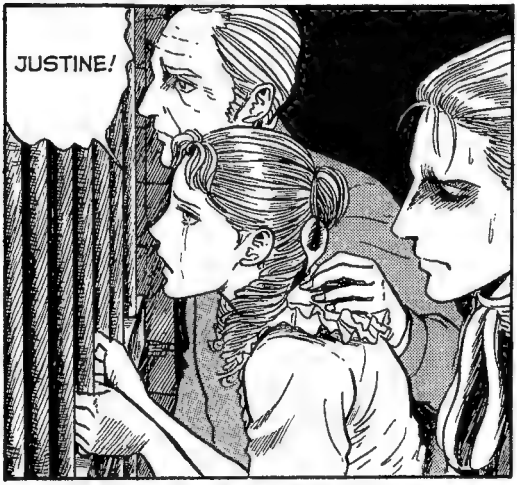

AND WHY WAS THE CAMEO PENDANT IN YOUR POCKET THEN?
YES, A MARKET-WOMAN SAYS SHE SAW ME NEAR THE SCENE OF THE CRIME THE NEXT MORNING, BUT I SWEAR TO GOD, I DID NOT GO TO THAT PARK.
ON THAT NIGHT, LOOKING FOR LOST WILLIAM, I WAS OUT TILL THE GATES OF GENEVA CLOSED, AND PASSED THE NIGHT IN A BARN.

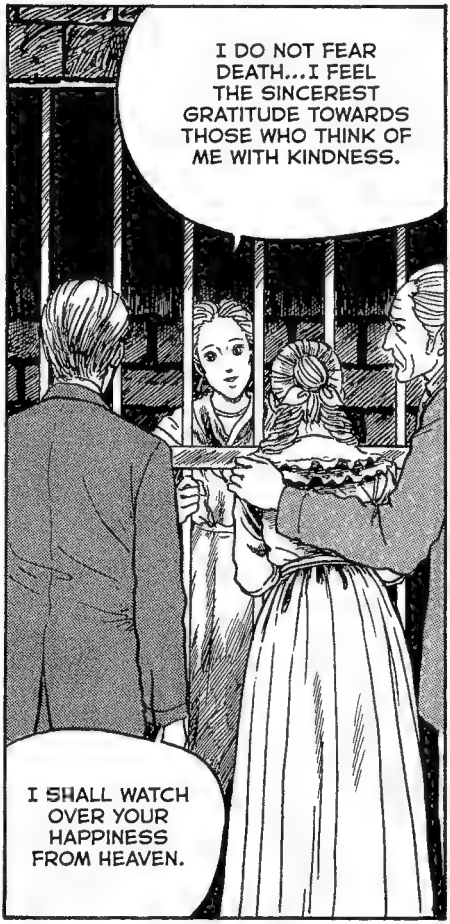

WHY WAS IT IN MY POCKET? I CAN ONLY THINK THAT SOMEONE PUT IT THERE.
THAT... I DON'T KNOW.


IT'S MY FAULT. ALL OF THIS IS MY FAULT.
JUSTINE... HOW CAN THIS BE?
DESPITE OUR DESPERATE DEFENSE...
...SHE WAS CONDEMNED TO DEATH.

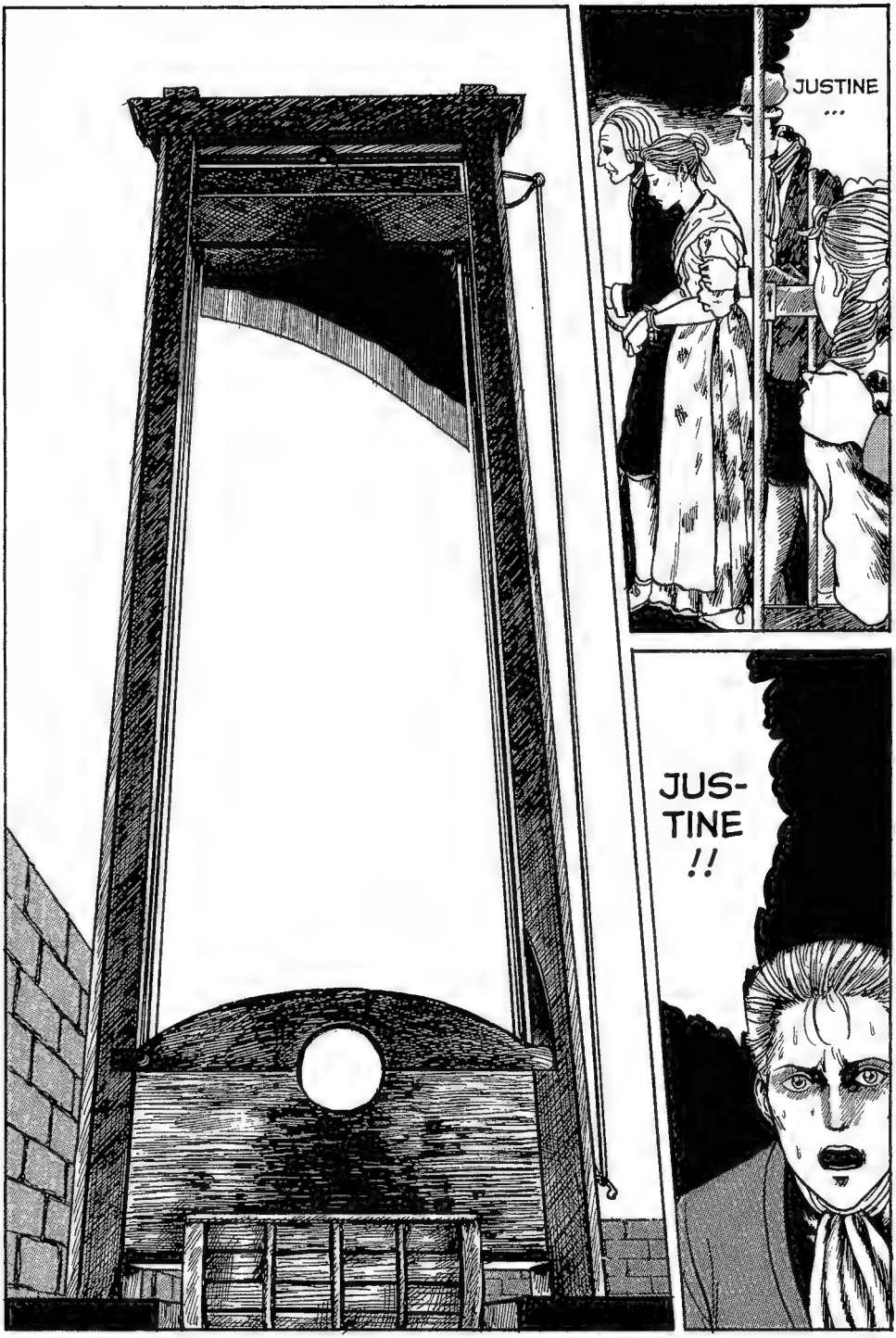
I WILL GO NOW TO BE WITH MY MISTRESS AND MASTER WILLIAM.
HOW SWEET IS THE AFFECTION OF OTHERS TO SUCH A WRETCH AS I AM!

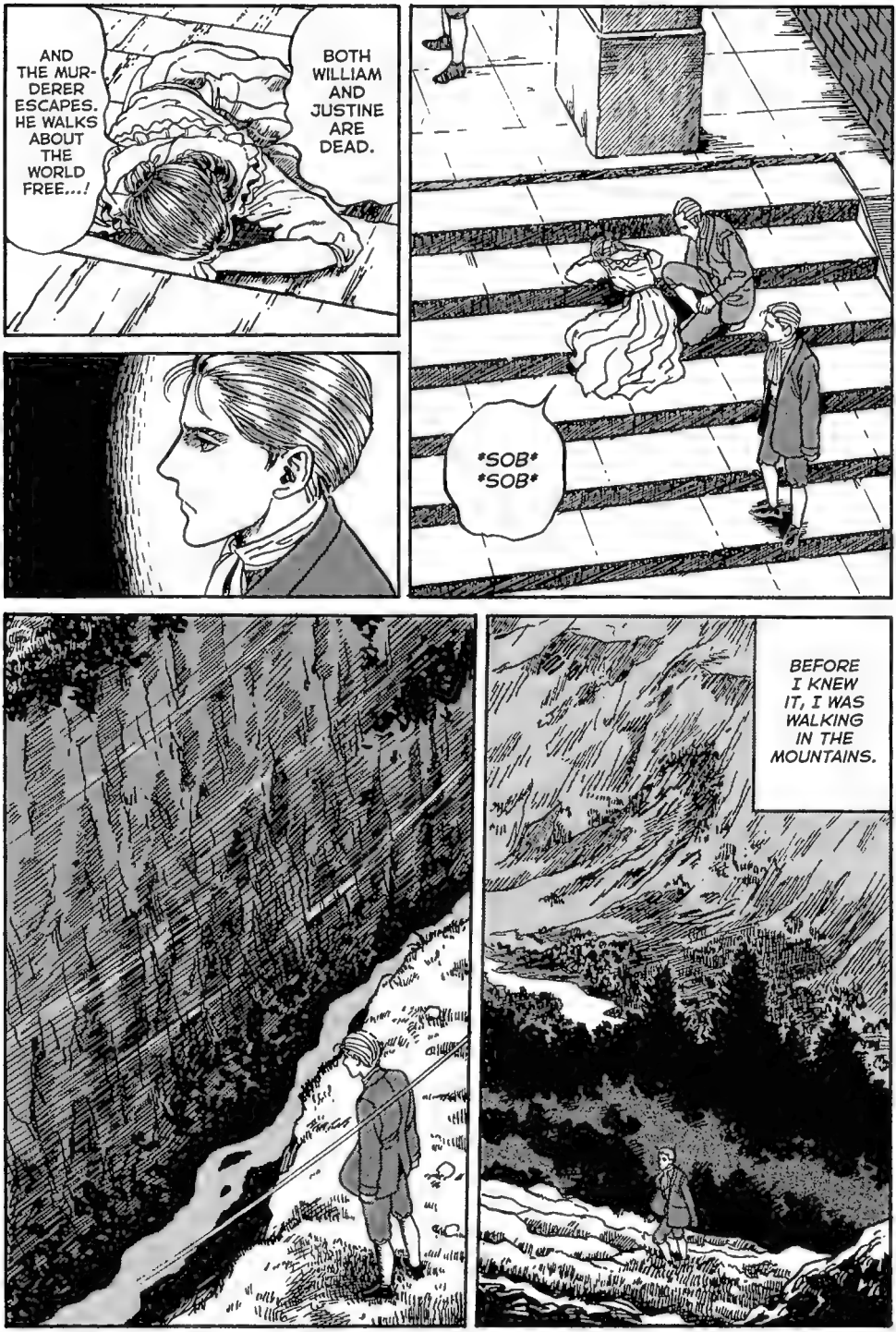
SIR... MASTER VICTOR.
MISS ELIZABETH.


JUSTINE!


I DO NOT FEAR DEATH...I FEEL THE SINCEREST GRATITUDE TOWARDS THOSE WHO THINK OF ME WITH KINDNESS.
I SHALL WATCH OVER YOUR HAPPINESS FROM HEAVEN.

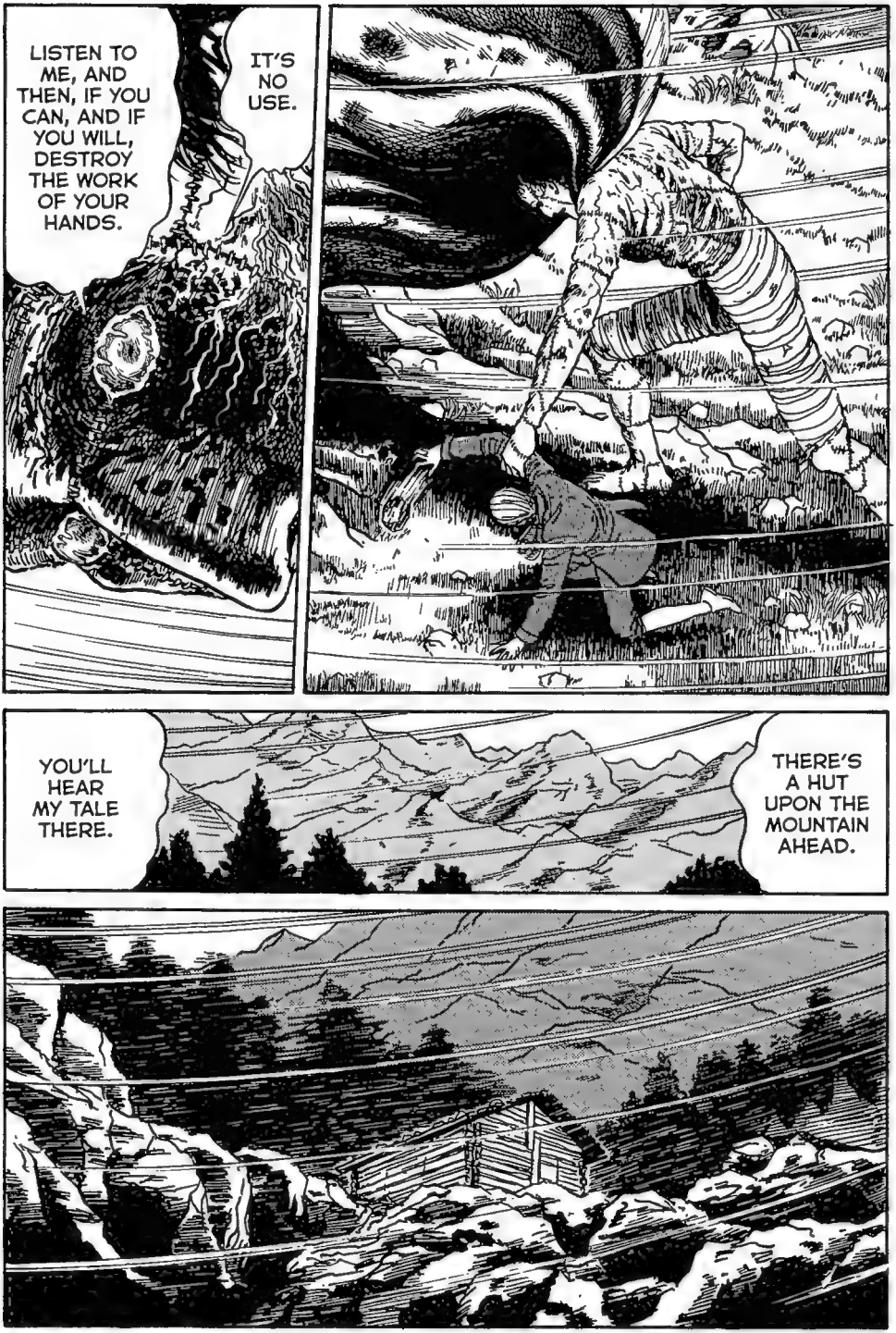
CLANK
IT'S TIME.
JUSTINE MORITZ.

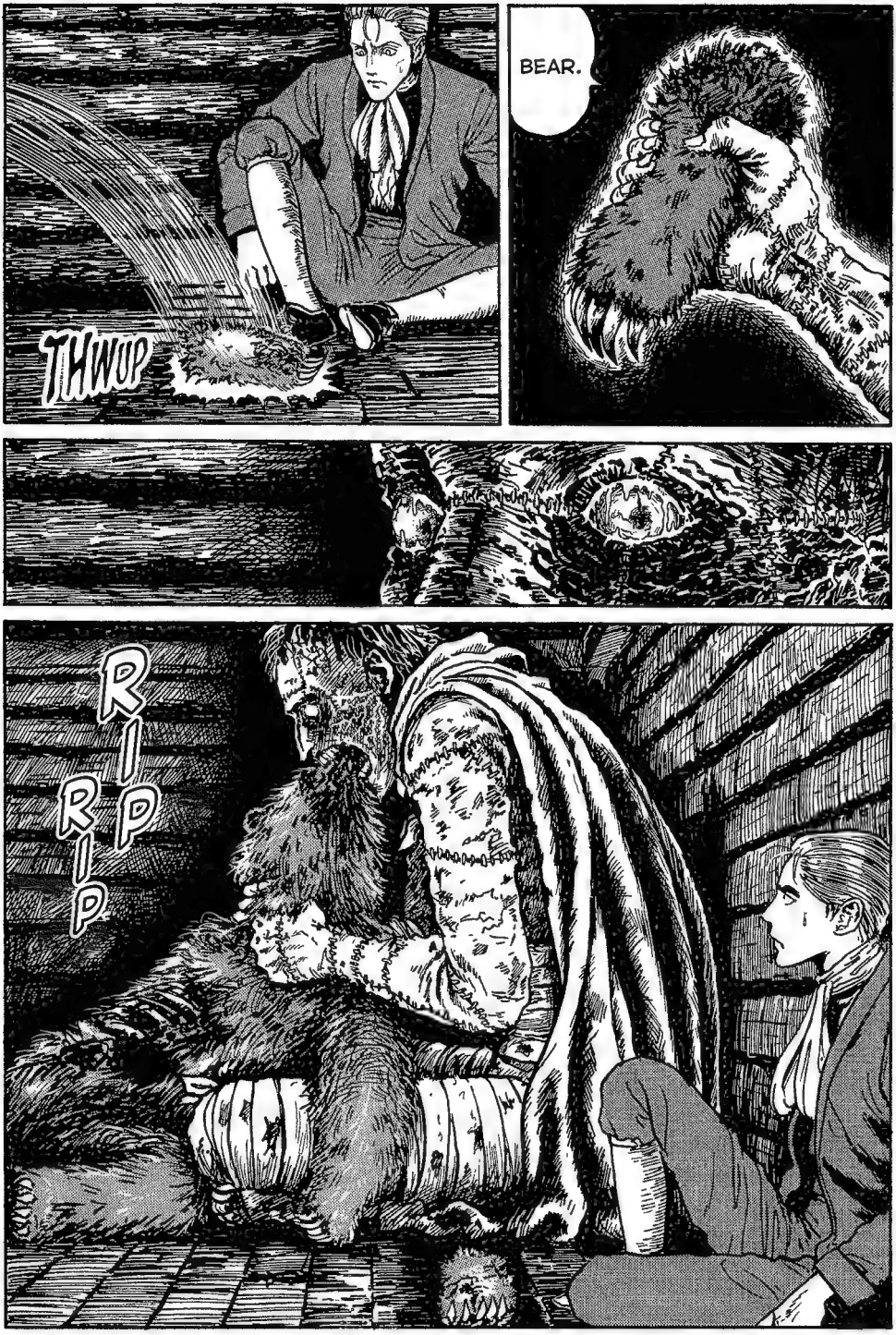

JUSTINE
...
JUS-
TINE
!!


AND THE MURDERER ESCAPES. HE WALKS ABOUT THE WORLD FREE...!
BOTH WILLIAM AND JUSTINE ARE DEAD.
SOB *SOB*
BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS WALKING IN THE MOUNTAINS.

HEH HEH HEH
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
DEVIL !
AH!
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

...I ENTREAT YOU!
HEAR MY TALE.
YOU CREATED ME... TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AS MY MAKER.
FRANKENSTEIN.
YOU... YOU SPEAK ?!
YANK
UNH!
RESPONSIBILITY? HOW BRAZEN.
MY RESPONSIBILITY IS TO DESTROY YOU!


LISTEN TO ME, AND THEN, IF YOU CAN, AND IF YOU WILL, DESTROY THE WORK OF YOUR HANDS.
IT'S NO USE.
YOU'LL HEAR MY TALE THERE.
THERE'S A HUT UPON THE MOUNTAIN AHEAD.


THWUP
BEAR.
RIP
RIP

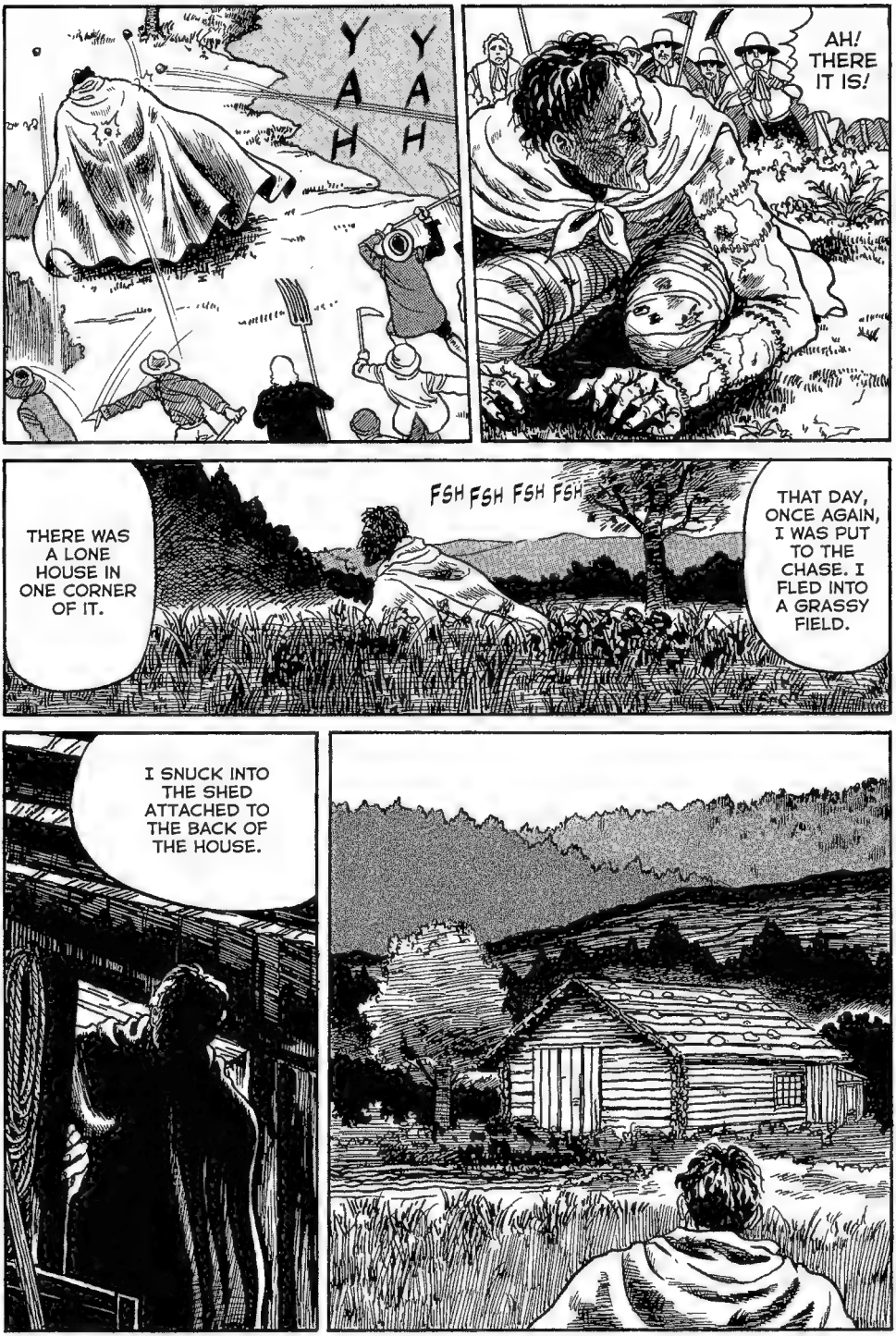
CHOMP
CHOMP
BUT BECAUSE OF ITS UGLINESS, I AM LOATHED BY PEOPLE. I HAVE SUFFERED COUNTLESS HARDSHIPS.
THANKS TO THIS BODY YOU MADE, I CAN KILL EVEN A BROWN BEAR.
I WRAPPED MYSELF IN YOUR CLOTHES IN THE ROOM AND STAG-GERED OUTSIDE.
THIS WAS THE START OF MY AGONY.
I HARDLY REMEMBER THE NIGHT OF MY BIRTH; I ONLY RECALL THAT IT WAS COLD.

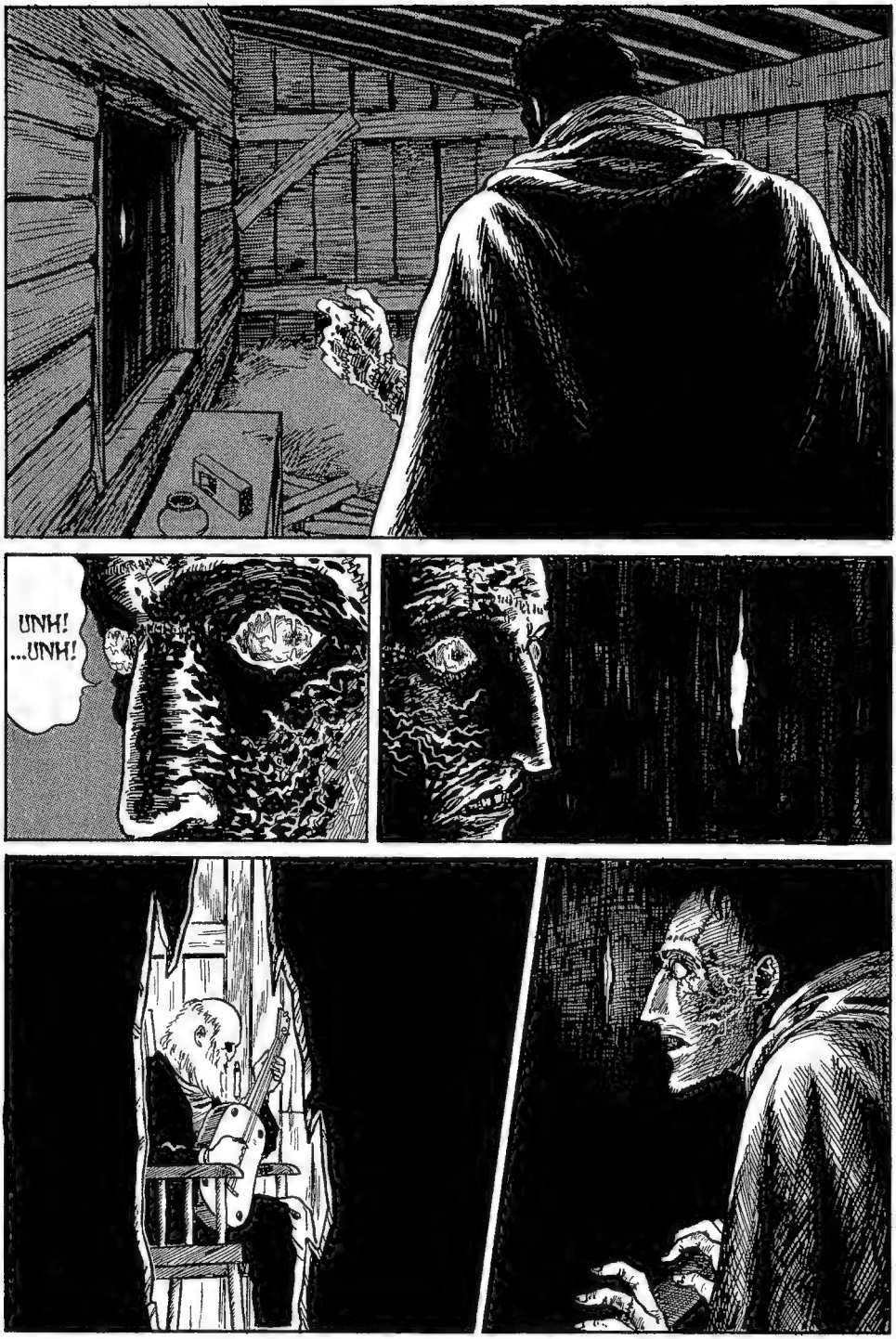
WRAPPED IN SOME FOUND FABRIC...
I WANDERED THROUGH THE WOODS.
...I PICKED FRUIT AND CAUGHT SMALL ANIMALS TO EAT.
KREE
BUT I SOON ATE THE AREA CLEAN, AND I WAS FORCED TO MOVE TO ANOTHER LOCATION.

AAAAAAH!
UNH! ...UNH UNH UNH...
RUN!
MNCH MNCH MNCH
MZUH MZUH
SLAM

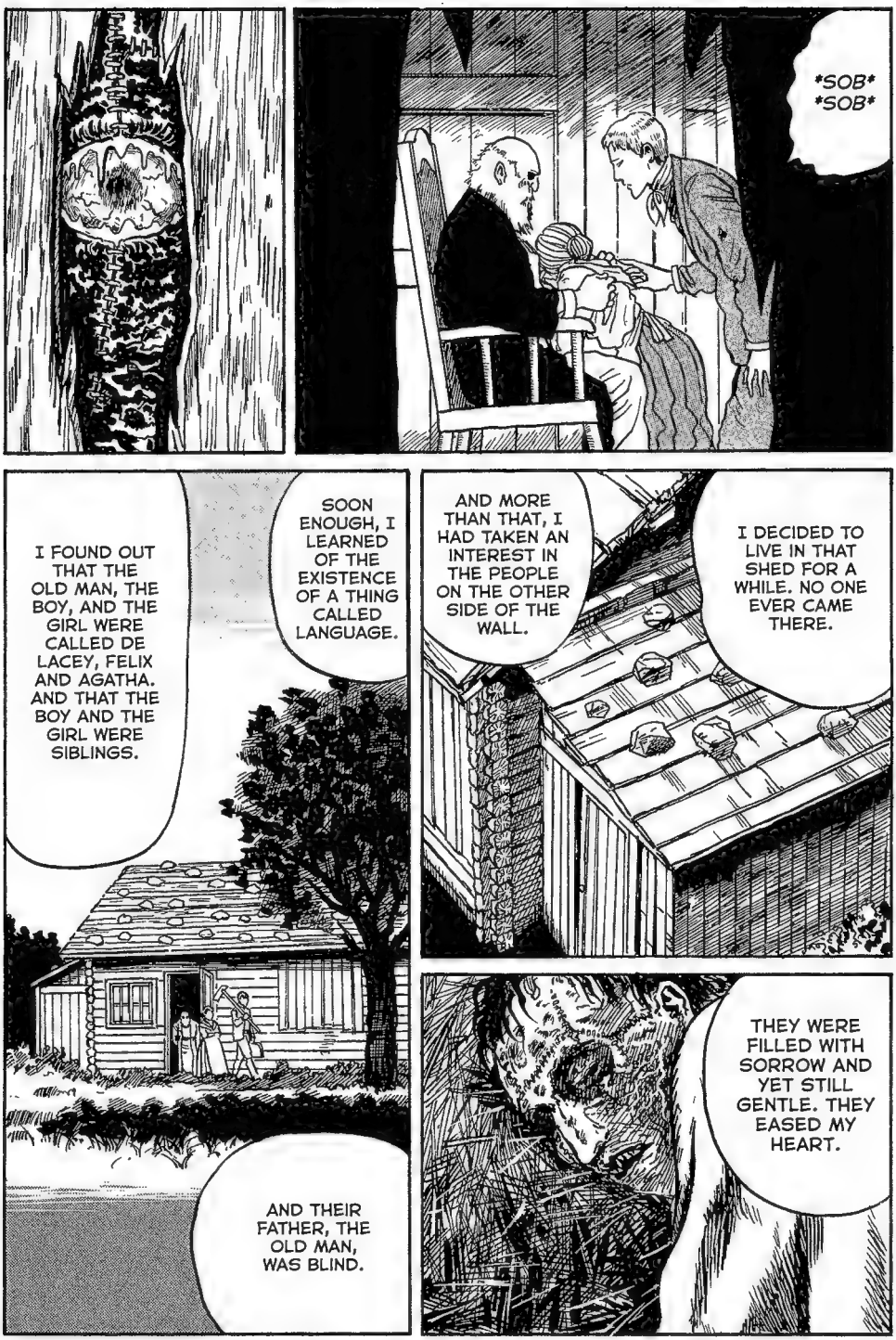
THE MON-STER!
THERE! OVER THERE!
GLUG GLUG
FWP
GET IT!
AHH! IT REALLY IS A MONSTER!

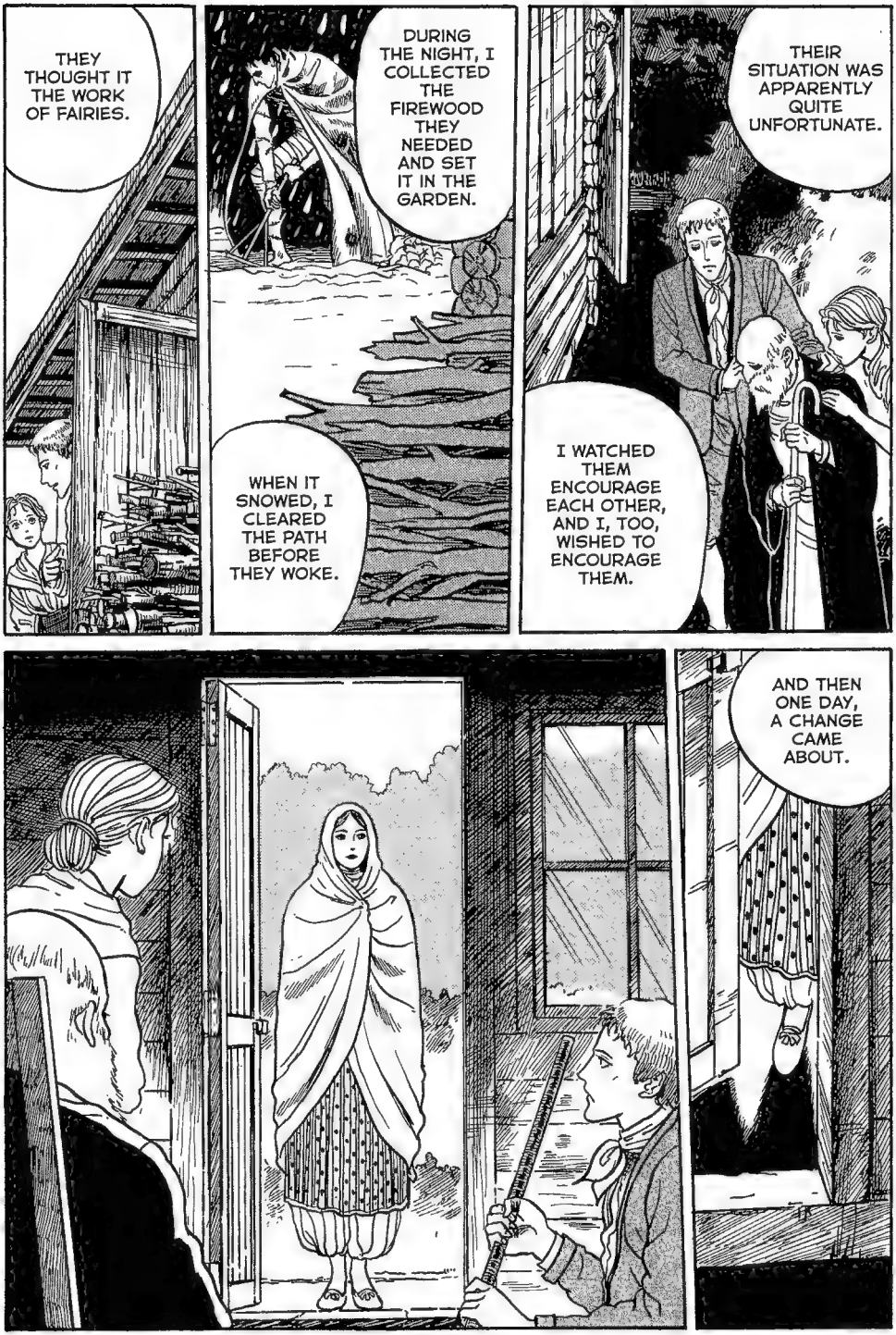
UNH! UNH UNH UNH!
THK THK THK
GAH!
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY AT FIRST, BUT EVENTUALLY I CAME TO REALIZE THAT THEY FEARED MY FORM.
THUMP
THUMP
EVERY TIME I ENCOUNTERED PEOPLE, I WAS TREATED HORRIBLY.
UNH!
UNH UNH...


YAH
YAH
AH! THERE IT IS!
THERE WAS A LONE HOUSE IN ONE CORNER OF IT.
FSH FSH FSH FSH
THAT DAY, ONCE AGAIN, I WAS PUT TO THE CHASE. I FLED INTO A GRASSY FIELD.
I SNUCK INTO THE SHED ATTACHED TO THE BACK OF THE HOUSE.


UNH!
...UNH!

JANGLE
TWANGLE
JANGLE
TWANGLE
SOB
SOB
AHH!


SOB
SOB
I FOUND OUT THAT THE OLD MAN, THE BOY, AND THE GIRL WERE CALLED DE LACEY, FELIX AND AGATHA. AND THAT THE BOY AND THE GIRL WERE SIBLINGS.
SOON ENOUGH, I LEARNED OF THE EXISTENCE OF A THING CALLED LANGUAGE.
AND THEIR FATHER, THE OLD MAN, WAS BLIND.
AND MORE THAN THAT, I HAD TAKEN AN INTEREST IN THE PEOPLE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL.
I DECIDED TO LIVE IN THAT SHED FOR A WHILE. NO ONE EVER CAME THERE.
THEY WERE FILLED WITH SORROW AND YET STILL GENTLE. THEY EASED MY HEART.


THEY THOUGHT IT THE WORK OF FAIRIES.
DURING THE NIGHT, I COLLECTED THE FIREWOOD THEY NEEDED AND SET IT IN THE GARDEN.
WHEN IT SNOWED, I CLEARED THE PATH BEFORE THEY WOKE.
THEIR SITUATION WAS APPARENTLY QUITE UNFORTUNATE.
I WATCHED THEM ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER, AND I, TOO, WISHED TO ENCOURAGE THEM.
AND THEN ONE DAY, A CHANGE CAME ABOUT.

SAFIE!
FELIX!
THE TWO WERE APPARENTLY IN LOVE.
INSTANTLY, THEIR FACES WERE FILLED WITH CHEER.
THEY HAD BEEN SEPARATED DUE TO SOME CIRCUM-STANCES.
UNH... FELIX... AGATHA... DE LACEY... HAPPY...

...AND ALL THE THINGS SHE WOULD NEED TO LIVE THERE.
ONCE FELIX WAS DONE WITH HIS WORK IN THE FIELDS, EVERY EVENING HE WOULD TEACH HER THE LANGUAGE, LETTERS AND HISTORY OF HIS COUNTRY...
THE WOMAN CALLED SAFIE WAS FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY.
SHE DIDN'T SPEAK THE LANGUAGE.
...AND MASTERED THEM FASTER THAN DID THE FOREIGN WOMAN.
I TOOK THOSE LESSONS THROUGH THE WALL...
AND THEN I HIT UPON A CERTAIN QUESTION.
WHAT EXACTLY AM I...?

GOD MADE HUMAN BEINGS... SO THEN WHO MADE ME?
WHAT AM I? I'M UNLIKE THE HUMANS.
I SUDDENLY REMEMBERED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOMETHING IN THE POCKET OF THE CLOTHING I TOOK FROM THE ROOM THAT FIRST NIGHT.
VICTOR... FRANKEN-STEIN...
IN IT, MY MAKER WROTE ABOUT HIMSELF, HIS FAMILY, HIS FRIENDS.
IT WAS YOUR JOURNAL OF THE FOUR MONTHS THAT PRECEDED MY CREATION.
AND THE PROCESS BY WHICH HE MADE ME WAS RECORDED IN DETAIL.

I'M UGLY AND ALONE!
WHY DID HE MAKE ME?!
SLAM
MY MAKER!
I DARED TO FANCY AMIABLE AND LOVELY CREATURES SYMPATHISING WITH MY FEELINGS.
YES... I WAS ALONE. I WANTED A FAMILY.
KREE
I DECIDED TO ENTER THE DWELLING WHEN THE BLIND OLD MAN SHOULD BE ALONE.
I LOVED THEM. BUT THEY DIDN'T KNOW OF MY EXISTENCE.
KREEE
TO COME BEFORE THEM, I NEEDED SOME KIND OF STRATEGY.

AND WHO'RE YOU?
H-HELLO.
COME IN THEN.
I AM IN WANT OF A LITTLE REST.
I-I AM A TRAVELER ...
I'M CONTENT TO SIMPLY BE ALLOWED TO REST HERE.
OH, NO...
BUT I'M BLIND, HM? MY CHILDREN ARE AWAY FROM HOME; IT IS DIFFICULT FOR ME TO PROCURE FOOD...

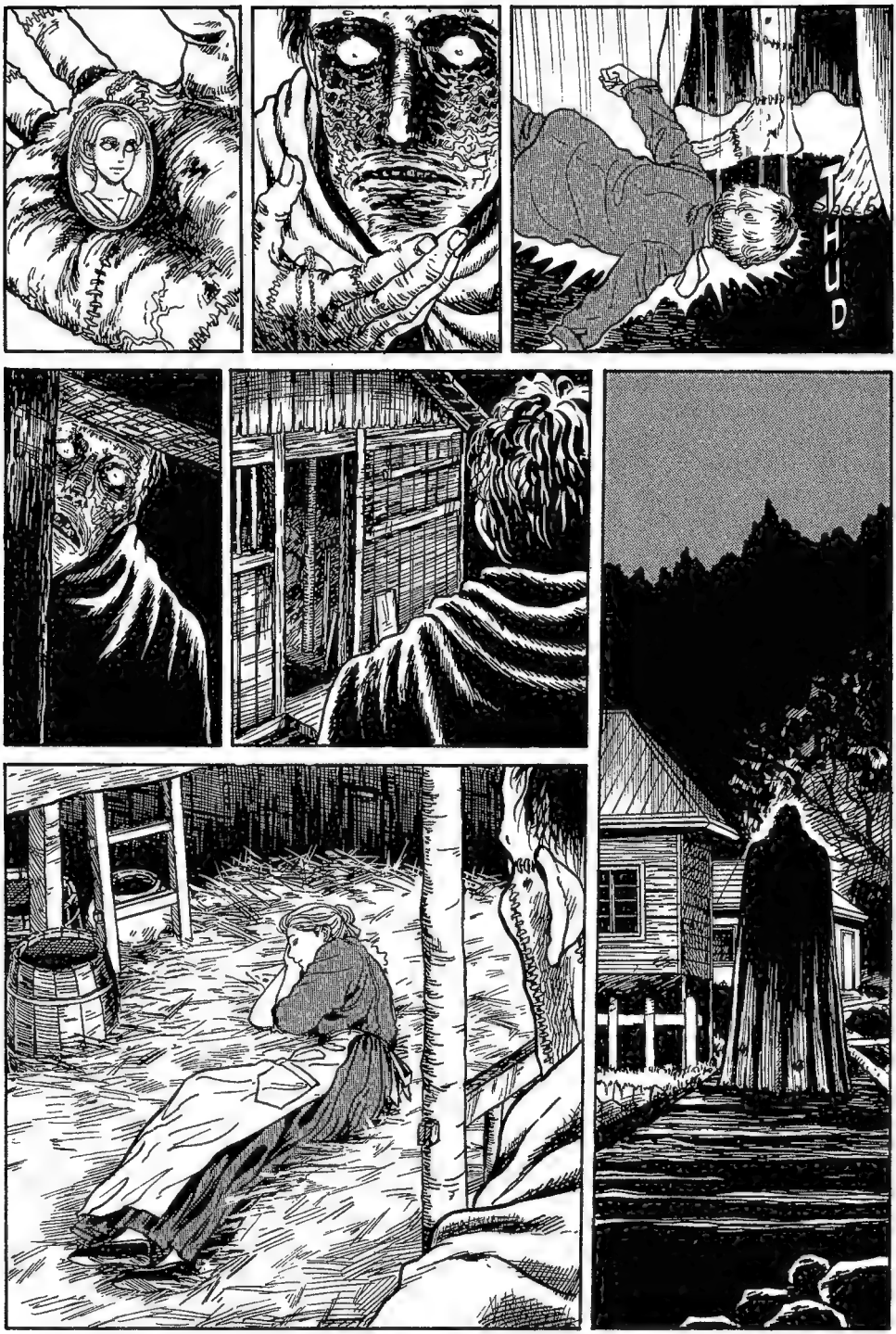
TWANGLE
WHERE ARE YOU HEADED FROM HERE?
SO THEN, TRAV-ELER.
TWANGLE
AH...
OH...
TRAVELER, IS THERE PERHAPS ANYTHING WE CAN DO? WOULD YOU TELL ME THE NAME OF THIS FAMILY?
OH HO, AN UNFORTUNATE MAN. IN THE PAST, WE WERE ONCE BLAMED FOR A CRIME OF WHICH WE WERE INNOCENT. I UNDERSTAND ONLY TOO WELL HOW YOU FEEL.
I-I'M GOING TO VISIT CERTAIN PEOPLE... THEY ARE KIND AND FULL OF LOVE, A WONDERFUL FAMILY.
BUT WHERE THEY OUGHT TO SEE A FEELING AND KIND FRIEND, THEY BEHOLD ONLY A DETESTABLE MONSTER.
I HAVE BEEN PERSECUTED BY MANY DUE TO MY COUNTENANCE.
I WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU!
TH-THANK YOU!
TH-THE FAMILY I LOVE...

YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE THE FRIENDS WHOM I LOVE!
FATHER, WE'RE HOME.
WHAT ?!
WH–
AAAAAH !!
EEE!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY FATHER?!
GET AWAY!
THK

GET OUT, YOU MONSTER!
THUD
UNH UNH!
UNH!
WHAP
WHAP
UNGAAAAAAH
THD
THD

NGAAAAAAH!
UNH! UNH!
AAAAAAAH!
AAAAAAAH!

YOU HAD ENDOWED ME WITH PERCEPTIONS AND PASSIONS, THEN CAST ME OUT—AN OBJECT FOR HORROR. BUT UPON YOU ONLY HAD I CLAIM FOR REDRESS. I DETERMINED TO SEEK THAT JUSTICE.
YOU HAD MENTIONED GENEVA AS THE NAME OF YOUR NATIVE TOWN IN YOUR JOURNAL.
I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE! ON THE HUMANITY THAT MADE ME SUFFER...
CURSED, CURSED CREATOR!
I SIMPLY KEPT WALKING.
IT WAS A DIF-FICULT JOUR-NEY.
I WAITED FOR THE BOY TO BE ALONE AND THEN STRANGLED HIM TO DEATH!
AS I LOOKED UPON THEIR HAPPY COUNTENANCES, MY RAGE GREW.
AND THEN, WHEN I FINALLY ARRIVED IN SWITZERLAND, I HAPPENED TO DISCOVER A MAN AND HIS FAMILY IN THAT PARK.


THUD

...THINKING THAT IF LUCK WERE ON MY SIDE, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO PIN THE CRIME ON HER.
I SLIPPED THE PENDANT INTO THAT WOMAN'S POCKET...
...WAS YOUR HOUSEHOLD MAID.
COINCIDENTALLY, THE WOMAN SLEEPING IN THAT SHED...

BUT YOU... YOU ALONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SAVE ME...
I AM ALONE AND MISERABLE. I BECAME A MURDERER... HUMANITY IS NOTHING BUT MY ENEMY.
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO?
...
NO... YOU HAVE AN *OBLIGATION* TO SAVE ME!
I WANT YOU TO MAKE ANOTHER.
...
ONE AS DEFORMED AND HORRIBLE AS MYSELF WOULD NOT DENY *HERSELF* TO ME.

THE SAME WAY YOU MADE ME.
I'M TELLING YOU TO MAKE A WOMAN.
W-WHAT?! I DARE YOU TO SAY THAT AGAIN.
GOD MADE ADAM AND EVE... YOU HAVE A DUTY TO MAKE ANOTHER.
I AM ALONE. I WANT SOMEONE TO EASE THIS LONELINESS.
MY COMPANION MUST BE OF THE SAME SPECIES AND HAVE THE SAME DEFECTS. THIS BEING YOU MUST CREATE.

YOU MAY RENDER ME THE MOST MISERABLE OF MEN, BUT YOU SHALL NEVER MAKE ME BASE IN MY OWN EYES.
AND NO TORTURE SHALL EVER EXTORT A CONSENT FROM ME!
I REFUSE!
THE THING I PRODUCED WAS NOTHING MORE THAN AN UGLY LUMP OF FLESH.
...BUT DO NOT FORGET THAT I AM A LUMP OF FLESH WITH INTELLI-GENCE.
CREATOR... I MAY VERY WELL BE AN UGLY LUMP OF FLESH...
I SHALL DESOLATE YOUR HEART.
YOU'LL CURSE THE HOUR OF YOUR BIRTH!
I WILL CAUSE FEAR.
ABANDON ME AND I WILL WORK AT YOUR DESTRUCTION.

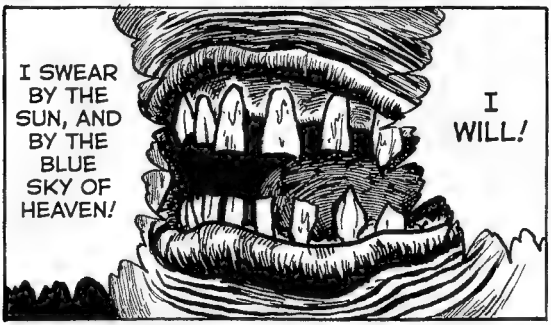
...I WILL TAKE THE WOMAN TO THE VAST WILDS OF SOUTH AMERICA.
BUT THAT IS UP TO YOU. IF YOU GRANT ME MY WISH...
SO? DOES IT NOT BENEFIT US BOTH?
AND I PROMISE TO NEVER AGAIN SHOW MYSELF BEFORE HUMANITY.
THAT LIFE IN THE WILDERNESS WON'T LAST. YOU DESIRE THE SYMPATHY OF MAN AND WILL RETURN FOR IT.
IF I MAKE ANOTHER ONE LIKE YOU, I SHALL NEVER BE ABLE TO UNDO IT. WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE TO DO ABOUT THIS UNEASE OF MINE?!
YOU'RE TELLING ME TO TRUST THE ONE WHO MURDERED MY BROTHER AND DROVE JUSTINE TO HER DEATH?

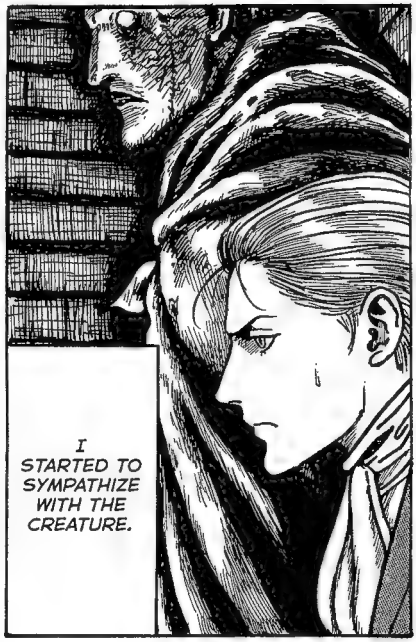
IF I HAVE NO AFFECTIONS, HATRED MUST BE MY PORTION; THE LOVE OF ANOTHER WILL DESTROY THE CAUSE OF MY CRIMES.
I SWEAR TO YOU, AND BY YOU THAT MADE ME, THAT WITH THE COMPANION YOU BESTOW MY EVIL PASSIONS WILL HAVE FLED! MY LIFE WILL FLOW AWAY, AND IN MY DYING MOMENTS I SHALL NEVER CURSE MY MAKER.

I WANT YOU TO SAVE ME SOMEHOW... AND YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO IT.

CREATOR. I'LL HAVE YOUR REPLY.

BUT YOU WILL QUIT EUROPE AND ANYWHERE KNOWN TO MAN, FOREVER?
I CONSENT TO YOUR DEMAND.


I SWEAR BY THE SUN, AND BY THE BLUE SKY OF HEAVEN!
I WILL!


I STARTED TO SYMPATHIZE WITH THE CREATURE.

WHEN SHE IS READY, I WILL APPEAR.
DEPART HOME AND COMMENCE YOUR LABOURS.
KRRK

WHERE'S ELIZA-BETH?
WHERE ON EARTH HAVE YOU BEEN? I WAS WORRIED.
VICTOR!
AND NO WONDER. BE THERE TO COMFORT HER WHEN SHE WAKES.
SHE'S JUST FINALLY FALLEN ASLEEP. JUSTINE'S DEATH WAS QUITE A SHOCK.

MY POOR ELIZA-BETH.
FOR-GIVE ME...
BUT I WON'T BRING YOU ANY FURTHER SADNESS... ONCE I HAVE FINISHED THE DEAL WITH THAT DEVIL, THERE WILL NO LONGER BE ANYONE TO GET IN THE WAY OF OUR HAPPINESS.
NO MATTER HOW MANY ROOMS WE MIGHT HAVE HERE, IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE WORK WITHOUT MY FAMILY OR THE SERVANTS NOTICING...
AND...THE NEXT ISSUE IS GATHERING MATERIALS.
FIRST I NEED A LABORA-TORY.
BUT IF I AM ACTUALLY TO BEGIN WORK, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS.

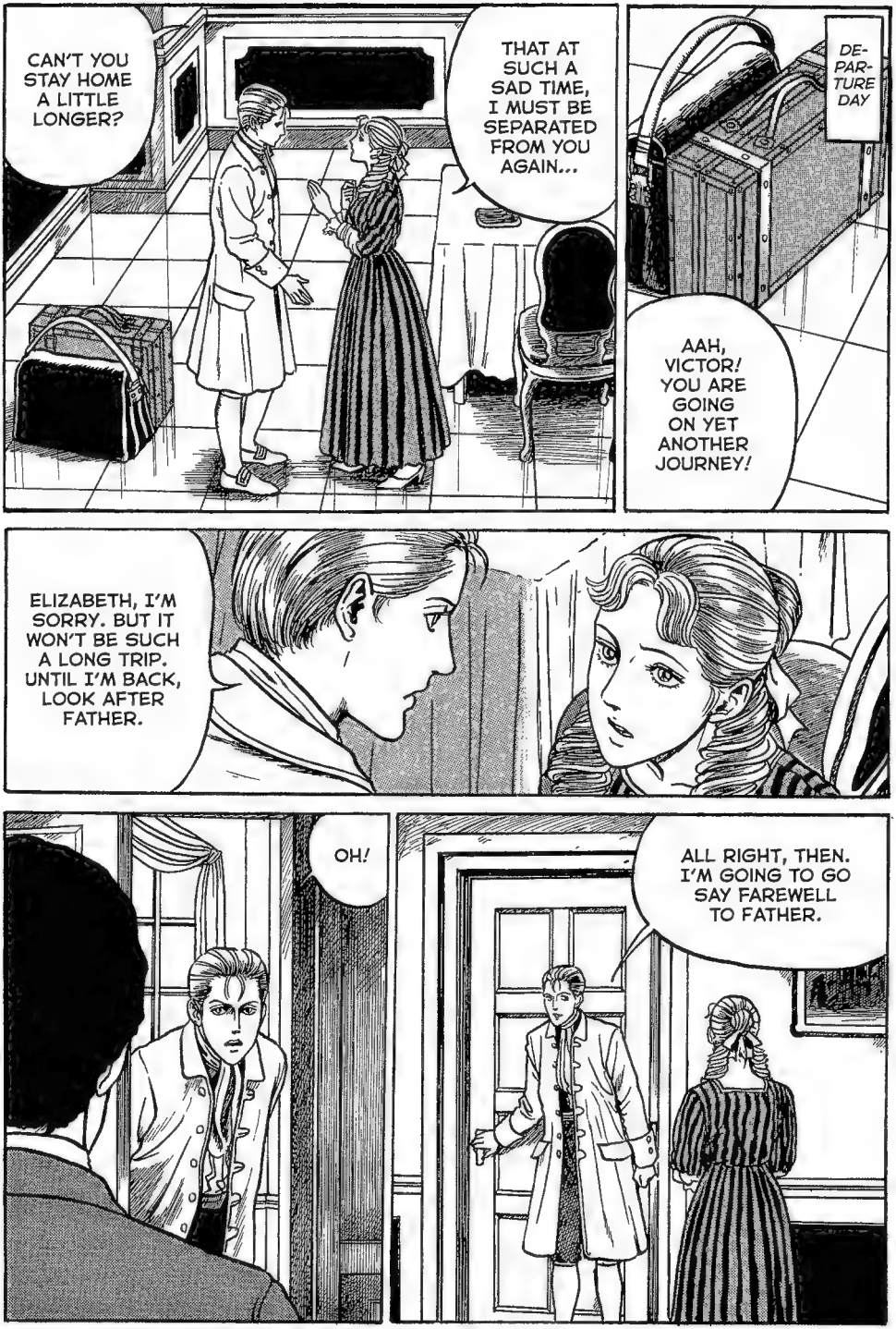
TO THINK THAT I MUST ONCE AGAIN COMMIT SUCH DESECRATION...
WHEN I WAS IN GERMANY, I SO BURNED WITH AMBITION THAT I HAPPILY ROBBED THE MOST DREADFUL OF GRAVES.
BUT THINKING ABOUT IT NOW, I WAS MAD... I'M FRIGHTENED SIMPLY REMEMBERING IT.
AH!
VICTOR.
I'M NOT SURE IF NOW IS THE TIME FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
BUT WITH THIS STRING OF MISFORTUNE, I WISH TO PREVENT ANY FURTHER CALAMITY.
WHAT IS IT, FATHER?
...SORRY TO BOTHER YOU. I KNOW YOU'RE TIRED... BUT I HAVE SOMETHING TO DISCUSS WITH YOU. WOULD YOU COME TO MY ROOM?

MM... IT'S ACTUALLY SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN ON MY MIND FOR A WHILE, VICTOR.
SO...WHAT IS IT THEN, FATHER?
VICTOR...IF YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING, BE HONEST WITH ME.
IT WILL BE TO NEITHER OF OUR BENEFIT IF YOU DON'T.
AT FIRST, YOU SENT FREQUENT LETTERS, BUT THEN IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE YOU CUT OFF ALL COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR FAMILY.
IN YOUR LAST LETTER, YOU MENTIONED BEING PASSIONATELY INVOLVED IN SOME EXPERIMENT.
AFTER YOUR MOTHER PASSED A FEW YEARS AGO, YOU SET OUT FOR GERMANY TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY.
THERE'S NOTH-ING...
I...WHAT ARE YOU SAYING I COULD POSSIBLY BE HIDING?

WHAT CONCERNS ME HERE IS YOUR FEELINGS.
I'VE LOOKED FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN IT WILL HAPPEN. AND ELIZABETH WANTS THIS AS WELL.
MM-HM... WELL, VICTOR, I DOUBT YOU'VE FORGOTTEN, BUT WHEN SHE WAS DYING, YOUR MOTHER SAID SHE WISHED TO SEE YOU AND ELIZABETH BOUND TOGETHER.
THAT WAS ALSO MY WISH.
KLAK
YOU...
BE HONEST, VICTOR.
NAY, YOU MAY HAVE MET WITH ANOTHER WHOM YOU MAY LOVE; AND CONSIDERING YOURSELF AS BOUND IN HONOUR TO ELIZABETH.
YOU, PERHAPS, REGARD HER AS YOUR SISTER, WITHOUT ANY WISH THAT SHE MIGHT BECOME YOUR WIFE.
THIS STRUGGLE MAY OCCASION THE POIGNANT MISERY WHICH YOU APPEAR TO FEEL.

I LOVE HER EVEN NOW... AND I WILL FOREVER!
THAT'S NOT THE CASE AT ALL! I'VE NEVER MET A WOMAN THE LIKES OF ELIZABETH!
...
ONCE YOUR MOURNING ENDS, WE COULD HAVE A WEDDING FOR YOU AND ELIZABETH.
HOW ABOUT IT, VICTOR?
IF YOU FEEL THUS, WE SHALL ASSUREDLY BE HAPPY.
I'M SURE WILLIAM AND JUSTINE UP IN HEAVEN ALSO WANT THIS.
I'VE NOT BEEN SO PLEASED IN SUCH A LONG TIME.
BUT I HAVE A BOON TO ASK BEFORE THAT.
FATHER... I ALSO WISH TO BE WED TO ELIZABETH.

THAT IS TO BRING MY RESEARCH TO AN END. PLEASE GIVE ME PERMISSION TO TRAVEL TO ENGLAND FOR THAT PURPOSE.
THERE IS SOMETHING I WISH TO DO AT ALL COSTS BEFORE I MARRY.
ELIZABETH AND I WILL WAIT EAGERLY FOR YOUR RETURN.
GO. HAVE YOUR FILL OF STUDY AND TRAVEL.
IS THAT IT...? I'VE NO REASON TO BE OPPOSED.
OF COURSE, GOING TO ENGLAND WAS AN EXCUSE.
MY INTENTION WAS ACTUALLY TO FIND SOME OUT-OF-THE-WAY PLACE TO COMPLETE MY WORK.
HOWEVER, THE FEARSOMENESS OF THE TASK I MUST COMPLETE BEFORE THAT...
MARRIAGE TO ELIZABETH... THAT WAS A WONDERFUL THING.

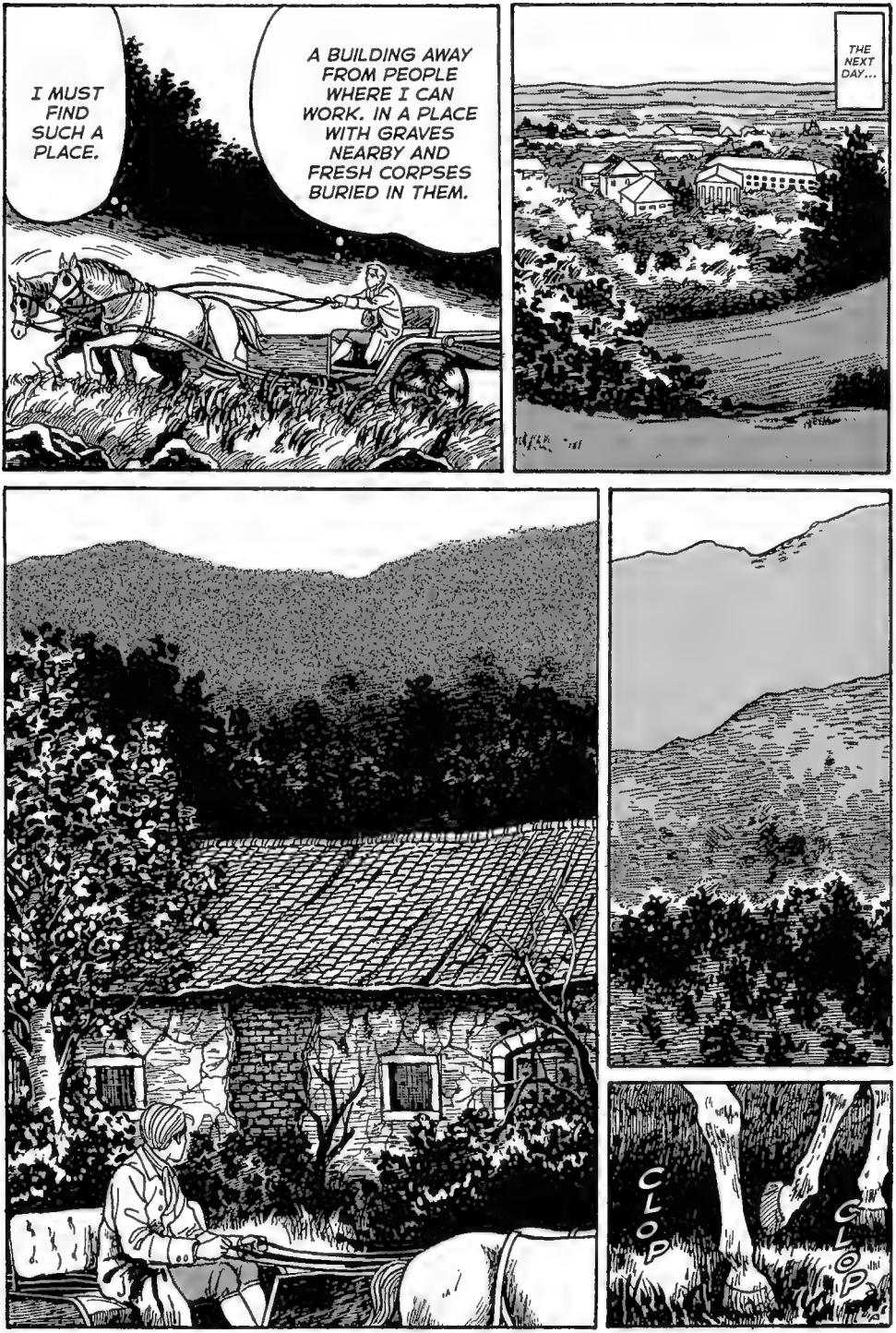

CAN'T YOU STAY HOME A LITTLE LONGER?
THAT AT SUCH A SAD TIME, I MUST BE SEPARATED FROM YOU AGAIN...
DE-PAR-TURE DAY
AAH, VICTOR! YOU ARE GOING ON YET ANOTHER JOURNEY!
ELIZABETH, I'M SORRY. BUT IT WON'T BE SUCH A LONG TRIP. UNTIL I'M BACK, LOOK AFTER FATHER.
OH!
ALL RIGHT, THEN. I'M GOING TO GO SAY FAREWELL TO FATHER.

I HURRIED BACK AT YOUR FATHER'S REQUEST.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN GERMANY.
HENRY, IS THAT YOU?!
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE SOMEWHAT UNEASY ABOUT A TRIP ALONE, SO I ASKED HENRY TO ACCOMPANY YOU.
THAT'S RIGHT, VICTOR. I BEGGED HIM TO COME.
IF IT'S UNIVERSITY, NO NEED TO WORRY. I WAS ACTUALLY WANTING A LITTLE BREAK.
YOU DON'T LOOK TOO PLEASED AT THE IDEA.
BUT, HENRY...

SOMEHOW, I NEEDED TO GET AWAY FROM HENRY.
CONGRAT-ULATIONS!
VICTOR! I HEAR YOU'RE TO MARRY ELIZABETH UPON YOUR RETURN HOME.
KLAKKA KLAKKA
HAVING HENRY WITH ME ON THE TRIP COMPLICATED THINGS.
OH... YES... THANK YOU.

IN-DEED...
HA HA HA! I'VE BE-COME A POET.
HENRY, WHEN I'M WITH YOU, I FEEL QUITE CHEERED.
THIS IS WHAT IT IS TO LIVE. NOW I ENJOY EXISTENCE!
PERHAPS LIFE IS FOR LOOKING AT SUNSETS.

HMM... WHERE ARE YOU PLANNING TO GO?
AFTER WE SPEND THE NIGHT AT THIS HOTEL I SHOULD LIKE TO GO OFF BY MYSELF FOR A WHILE.
INCIDENTALLY, HENRY, I WANT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING. PLEASE DON'T TAKE IT THE WRONG WAY.
WE'LL MEET AGAIN IN LONDON.
SO I WANT YOU TO GO DOWN THE RHINE AND HEAD TO ENGLAND BEFORE ME.
ALL RIGHT?
ONE MONTH PERHAPS? OR IT MIGHT END UP BEING LONGER.
I HAVE NO PLACE IN PARTICULAR IN MIND. I SIMPLY NEED SOME TIME ALONE TO THINK.
I WILL... I'M TRULY SORRY.
BUT COME AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN.
WHEN YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT, I SUPPOSE I DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE...


I MUST FIND SUCH A PLACE.
A BUILDING AWAY FROM PEOPLE WHERE I CAN WORK. IN A PLACE WITH GRAVES NEARBY AND FRESH CORPSES BURIED IN THEM.
THE NEXT DAY...
CLOP
CLOP

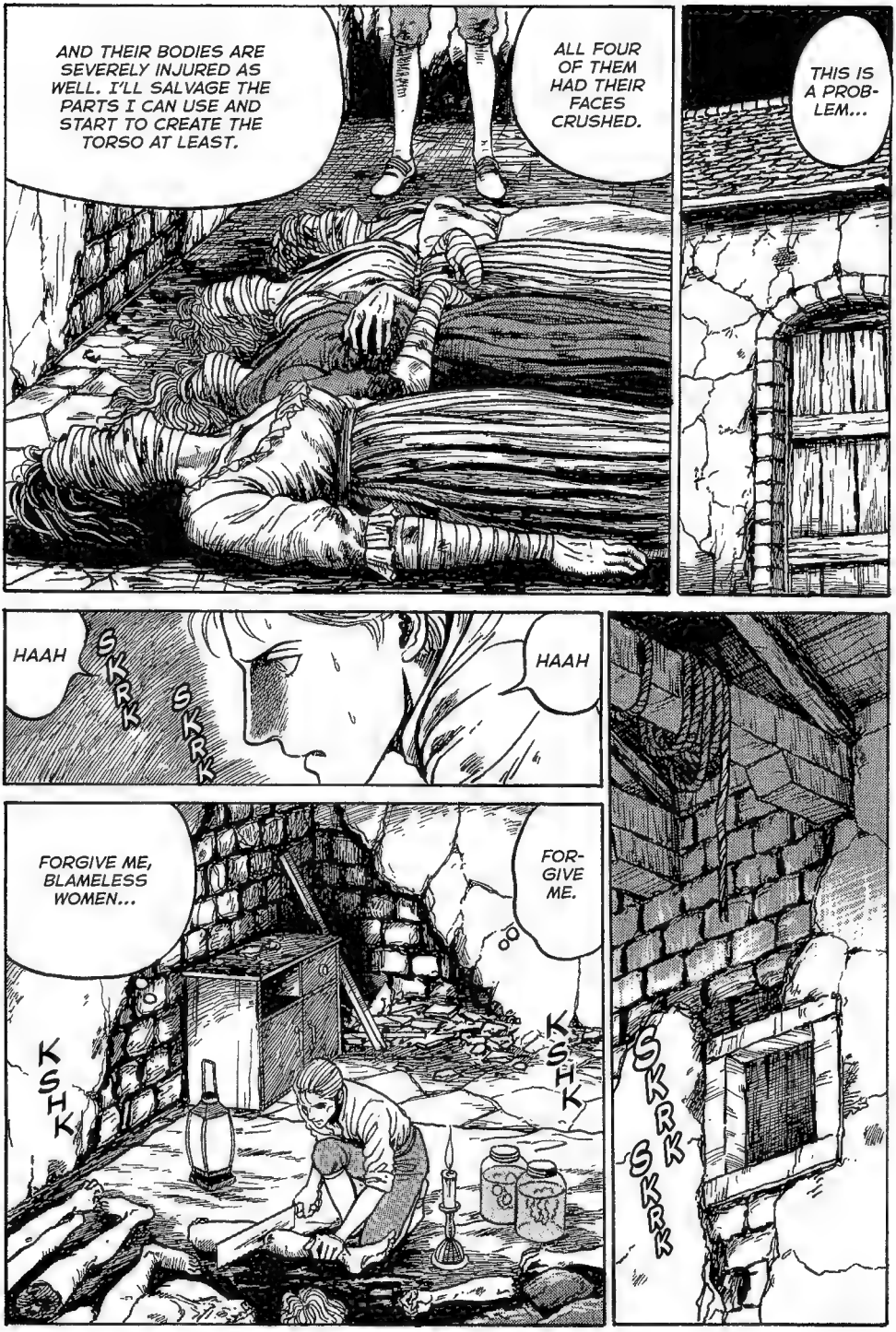
IT DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE INHABITED.
...
AND I SAW A GRAVEYARD ON THE WAY HERE.
I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK...

SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB

HM?
IS IT A FUNERAL ?
OH, YES.
AN ACCIDENT... THERE WAS A LANDSLIDE WHILE THEY TOILED IN THE VINEYARDS. STILL SUCH YOUNG WOMEN.
IT'S JUST AWFUL. FOUR DEAD IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
...
HONESTLY. WHAT A CRUEL WAY TO DIE.

KRNCH
KRNCH
KLAK

HER HEAD IS CRUSHED FROM THE NECK UP.
FORGIVE ME. SINLESS GIRL...
THAT NIGHT, I EXHUMED THE FOUR BODIES.
THUD

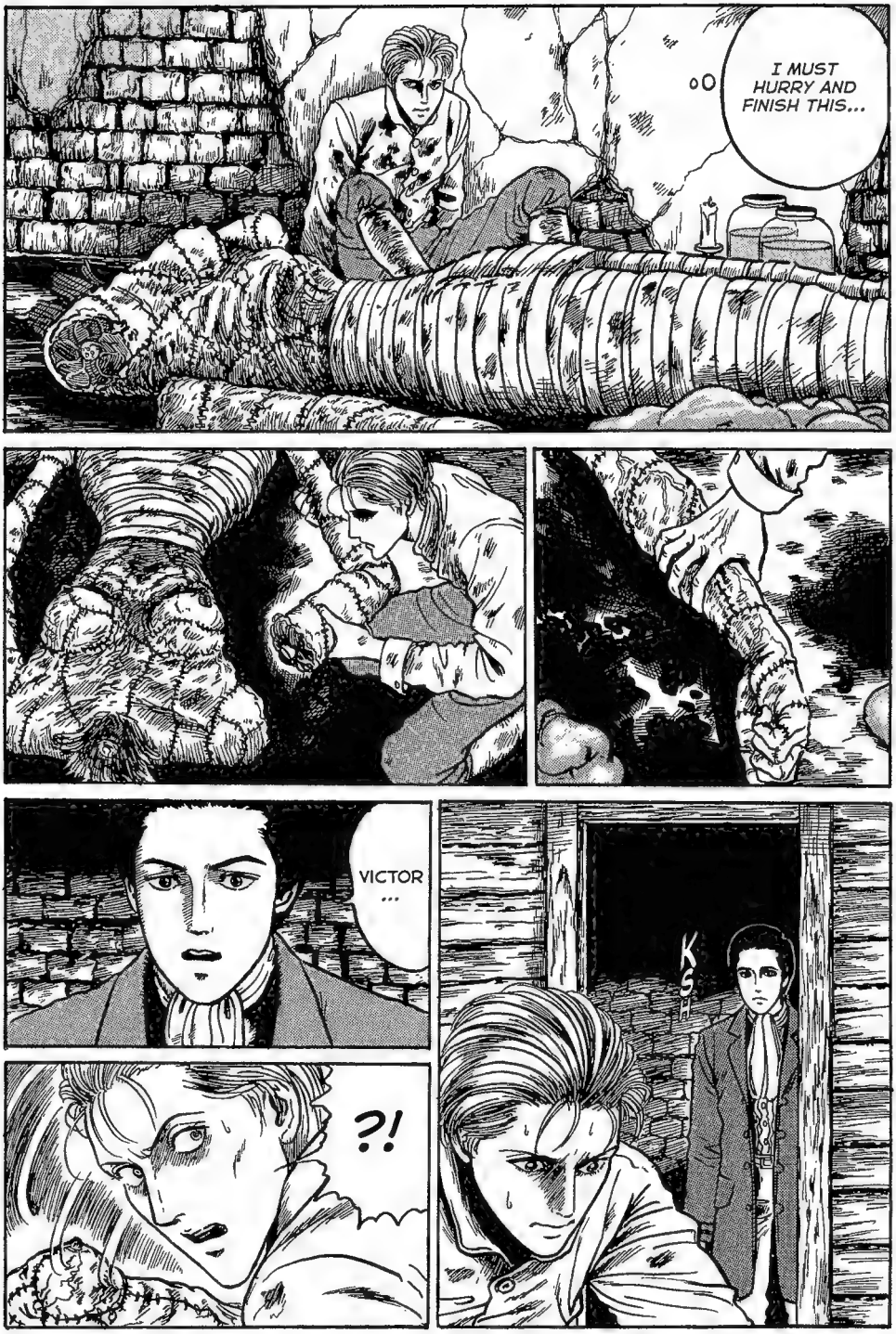

AND THEIR BODIES ARE SEVERELY INJURED AS WELL. I'LL SALVAGE THE PARTS I CAN USE AND START TO CREATE THE TORSO AT LEAST.
ALL FOUR OF THEM HAD THEIR FACES CRUSHED.
THIS IS A PROBLEM...
HAAH
SKRK
SKRK
HAAH
FORGIVE ME, BLAMELESS WOMEN...
FORGIVE ME.
KSHK
KSHK
SKRK
SKRK
SKRK

FORGIVE ME. I MUST FASHION YOU INTO A PARTNER FOR THAT MONSTER.
YOU ARE MY SACRIFICE.
FORGIVE ME.
S H H F
FOR-GIVE ME...

FLOP
I'LL REST A BIT.
I'M EX-HAUST-ED...
FORGIVE ME.
FORGIVE ME...
IT WAS THE SIN I CREATED, JUSTINE.
JUSTINE... FORGIVE ME...
IT WAS I WHO SENT YOU TO YOUR DEATH.

I WAS TRIED IN A COURT OF LAW.
NO, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, MASTER VICTOR.
WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT IS THAT YOU ARE HAPPY WITH MISS ELIZABETH...
IT WAS THE MONSTER I CREATED THAT KILLED WILLIAM.
JUSTINE!
GOOD-BYE.
WELL THEN, MASTER VICTOR, I MUST GO.
IT'S TIME!
JUSTINE MORITZ.
JUS-TINE!

YANK
WHSSSH
CLUNK
!
...WHAT A TERRIBLE DREAM.

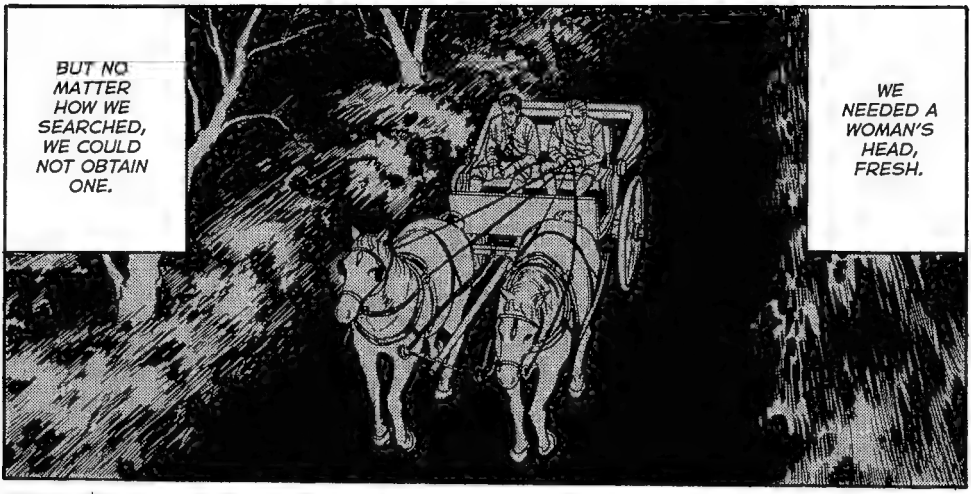

I MUST HURRY AND FINISH THIS...
VICTOR ...
?!
KSH

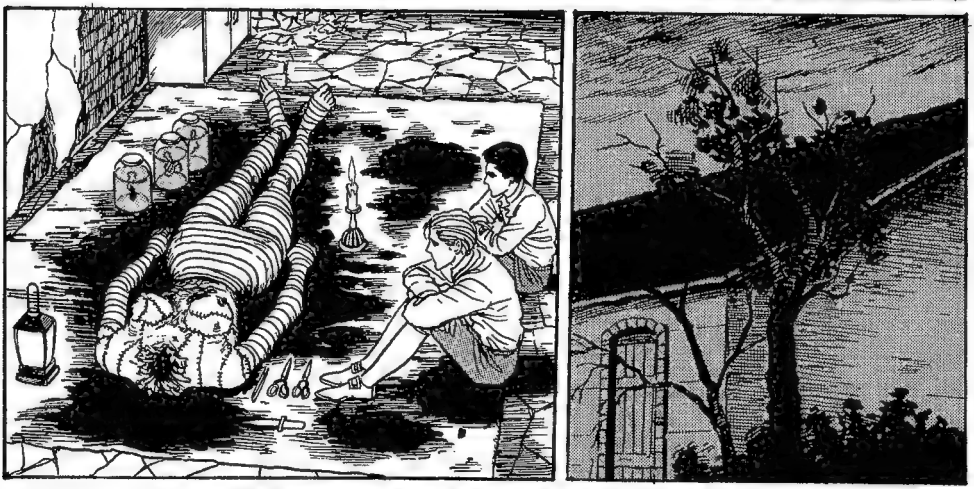
WHAT ARE YOU... DOING HERE ...?
H- HENRY !!
YOU SEEMED ODD, AND I WAS WORRIED.
I'M SORRY. I DECIDED NOT TO GO ON TO ENGLAND. I FOLLOWED YOU...
BUT I LOST YOU ALONG THE WAY, SO I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOU.
VICTOR... EXPLAIN THIS TO ME. WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?

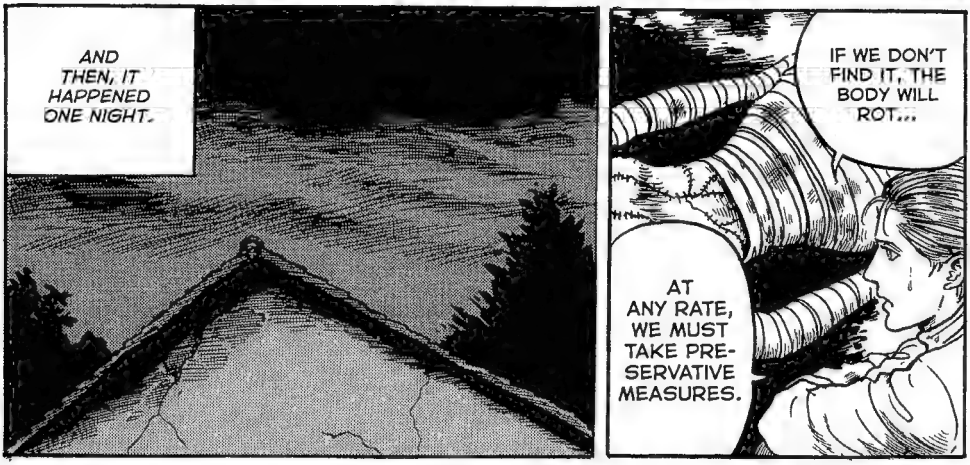
I SUPPOSE I MUST... NOW THAT IT'S COME TO THIS, I'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH.
HENRY ...
I AM MAKING AN ARTIFICIAL HUMAN—ONE DEFORMED AND TWISTED.
LISTEN TO ME.
YOU MAY OR MAY NOT BELIEVE ME, BUT THAT IS THE TRUTH. BECAUSE OF MY FOOLISH AMBITION, I HAVE BEEN DRIVEN INTO AN IRREPARABLE SITUATION.
...AND THAT IS WHY.
I CONFESSED EVERYTHING TO HENRY, RIGHT FROM THE POINT WHEN I DISCOVERED THE SECRET OF LIFE IN GERMANY.
HMM ...

THE SIN I'VE COMMITTED IS A BLASPHEMY AGAINST GOD. PLEASE SET ME BEFORE A JUDGE.
NOW THAT YOU'VE FOUND OUT, I CAN'T POSSIBLY CONTINUE ANY FURTHER WITH THE WORK.
AS FAR AS I CAN TELL FROM THIS SITUATION, IT'S THE TRUTH, ISN'T IT...?
THIS SUDDEN TALE IS HARD TO BELIEVE... BUT...
AS YOUR FRIEND, I CAN'T EXACTLY IGNORE THAT DANGER.
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MONSTER WILL DO IF YOU DO NOT FULFILL YOUR PROMISE, YES?
YOU MUST CONSIDER THIS CALMLY.
NOW JUST WAIT, VICTOR!
LISTEN, VICTOR. YOU HAVE TO COMPLETE IT.
I SHALL HELP SO THAT YOU CAN FINISH IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
WHAT DID YOU SAY, HENRY?!
I BELIEVE THE ONLY THING YOU CAN DO NOW IS FINISH THIS WOMAN.

IT WAS ENTIRELY UNEXPECTED.
BUT HENRY JOINED ME IN MY REPULSIVE WORK.
I DO, VICTOR!! NOW THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU MUST DO!
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND, HENRY? YOU— DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?!
BUT, HENRY...
SO, VICTOR? ANY-THING?
IT'S MORE DIFFICULT THAN I EXPECTED TO FIND MATERIALS UP TO STANDARD IN THIS UNKNOWN LAND.
LET'S LOOK IN ANOTHER CEME-TERY.
NO, NOTHING. THIS ONE'S TOO OLD.


BUT NO MATTER HOW WE SEARCHED, WE COULD NOT OBTAIN ONE.
WE NEEDED A WOMAN'S HEAD, FRESH.




AND THEN, IT HAPPENED ONE NIGHT.
IF WE DON'T FIND IT, THE BODY WILL ROT...
AT ANY RATE, WE MUST TAKE PRE-SERVATIVE MEASURES.

WHINNY
AH!
WHINNNNNT
WHINNNNNT
I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK.
WHINNY
THE HORSES ARE RESTLESS. SOMEONE MIGHT HAVE COME... THIS IS BAD.
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT WAS, VICTOR?
WHINNY

AH?!
VICTOR!
FLAP
WHAT IS IT, HENRY?!

KREEK
W-WHAT? WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
I HAVEN'T YET COM-PLETED THE TASK.

I DUG THIS UP IN A SWISS CEMETERY.
I THOUGHT THAT MIGHT HAPPEN, SO I TOOK THE LIBERTY.
YOU SEEM TO BE HAVING TROUBLE GATHERING MATERIALS.
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE DAY YOU FINISH MY WOMAN.
I'LL SET IT HERE. HURRY AND PROCEED WITH THE WORK.
TUNK

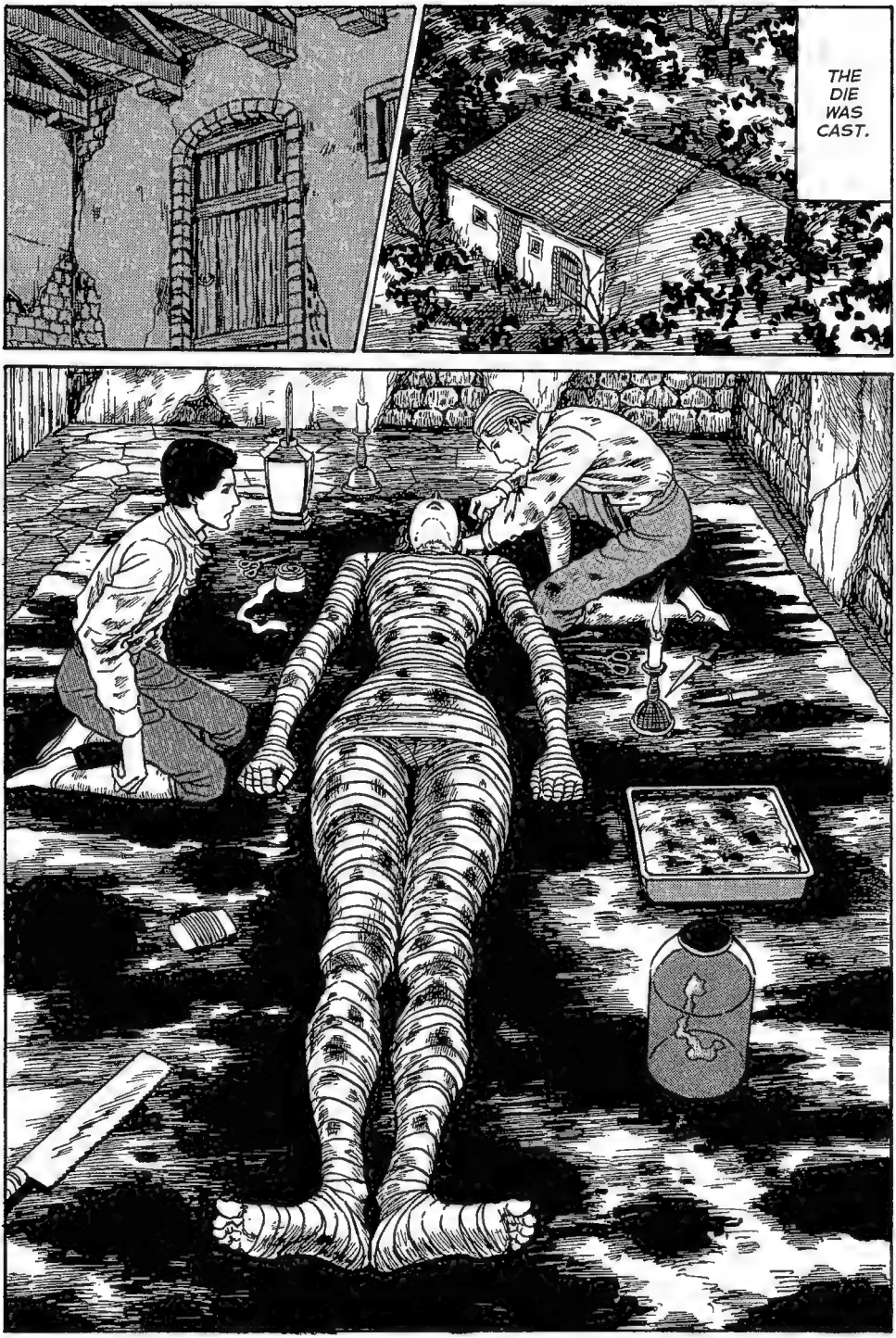
HE... HE'S BEEN WATCH-ING OVER US FROM SOME-WHERE...
VICTOR... THAT IS THE ARTIFICIAL HUMAN YOU MADE, THEN?
LET'S GET TO WORK, VICTOR.
...BUT BE THAT AS IT MAY, WE HAVE ALL THE MATERIALS NOW.
MM.
AH!
TUNK

W-WHAT KIND OF...
HENRY, LOOK!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, VICTOR?!
AH, DEAR LORD... FORGIVE ME.
HER HEAD, SLICED CLEAN BY THE GUILLOTINE, AND HE WENT AND DUG IT UP!
THIS IS JUSTINE'S HEAD!
BUT THE DEVIL HAD ALREADY GONE OFF SOMEWHERE.
TREMBLING WITH RAGE, I FLEW OUT OF THE SHACK.

IT'S BEST TO STAY CALM.
VICTOR, I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL. BUT IT MIGHT BE THAT HE DIDN'T KNOW.
THERE'S NO DOUBT. HE EXHUMED IT TO TORMENT ME.
HE KNEW. HE *KNEW* THIS WAS JUSTINE'S HEAD.
HE IS THE DEVIL HIMSELF!
HENRY! YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST NOT HAVE SYMPATHY FOR THAT MONSTER!
AND JUSTINE'S HEAD IS ON THE STAND THERE...
LET'S THINK. WE HAVE A BODY HERE, RIGHT NOW, THAT WE CAN IMBUE WITH LIFE.
ISN'T IT FORTU-ITOUS?

CALM DOWN AND LISTEN TO ME, VICTOR.
HENRY... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
WHAT ?!
...YOU... ARE YOU SAYING TO CONNECT HER HEAD WITH THIS BODY?!
HENRY ...
JUSTINE DIED DUE TO A TERRIBLE MISFORTUNE, BUT IF YOU COULD RESTORE HER TO LIFE, PERHAPS THIS MIGHT EASE YOUR SUFFERING?
MORE IMPORTANTLY, ISN'T IT YOUR DUTY TO GIVE JUSTINE NEW LIFE?
I'M SAYING YOU COULD MAKE ANOTHER COMPANION FOR HIM LATER! IF YOU SPOKE TO HIM, I'M SURE HE'D UNDERSTAND.
DON'T BE SO FOOLISH, HENRY! EVEN SUPPOSING I DID BRING HER BACK TO LIFE, SHE'D BE DOOMED TO WED THAT MONSTER.
BETTER FOR HER TO STAY DEAD.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE FACE IS HERS, BUT WE CANNOT TAME HER SPIRIT. THE COMPOSITE FORM MIGHT ALSO BE A WOMAN WITH THE SAME VIOLENT NATURE AS THAT MONSTER.
BUT EVEN IF I WERE TO USE HER HEAD, I STILL MUST MAKE THE BRAIN ANEW.
B-BUT...
WE'VE NOTHING TO LOSE. LET'S DO IT.
ALL RIGHT, HENRY...
AND WE SHALL RAISE HER UP TO LIVE AS SWEET, KIND JUSTINE!
I SHALL ENDEAVOR TO CREATE A PURE BRAIN!


THE DIE WAS CAST.

...
IT'S COMPLETE.
KACHK
HELP ME PREPARE THE REJUVENATION APPARATUS.
OH... YES.
MAY THE LORD IN HEAVEN WATCH OVER HER!
JUSTINE WILL FINALLY COME BACK TO LIFE!

ZZZT ZZZT
I'M A LITTLE ANX-IOUS...
WILL SHE BE HAPPY TO BE RE-STORED TO LIFE?
V-VICTOR. I'M SORRY FOR COMING OUT WITH THIS NOW OF ALL TIMES, BUT...
WHAT?! WHAT IS IT, HENRY?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, HENRY?! DON'T GO DOUBTING US NOW. I'LL DEFINITELY MAKE HER HAPPY!
Y-YES, RIGHT... OF COURSE...

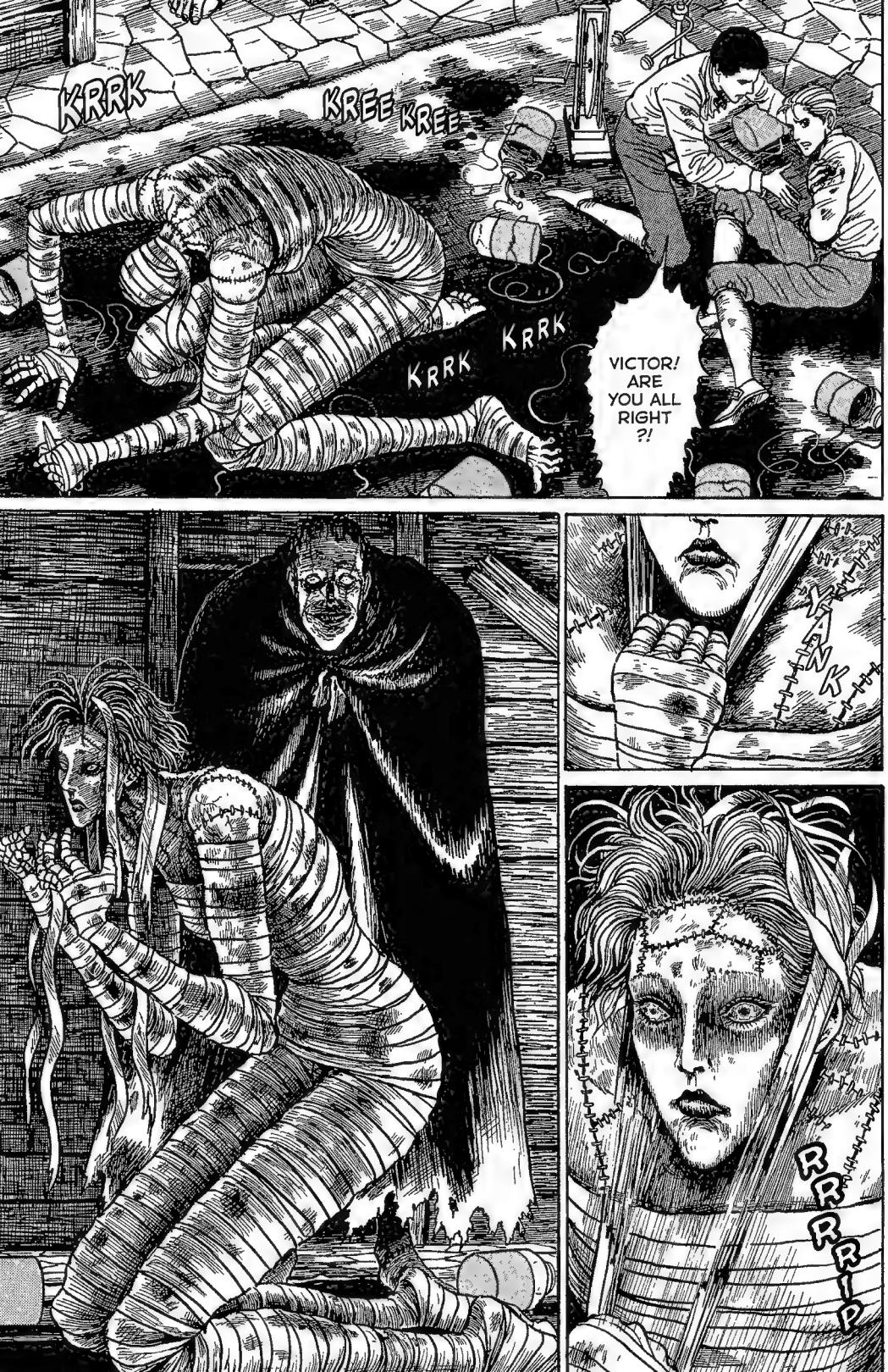
BZT BZT BZT
BZT BZT BZT
JUSTINE, ARE YOU AWAKE ?!
JUS-TINE!
YOU'RE THE FRANKENSTEINS' MAID—NO, FAMILY MEMBER.
YOU ARE THE KIND AND GENTLE JUSTINE.
LISTEN TO ME. YOUR NAME IS JUSTINE MORITZ.

SEE? TAKE A LOOK. THIS IS YOUR FACE.
AH!
?
LOOM
NOW, SIT UP. I'LL REMOVE YOUR BANDAGES FOR YOU!

KRAK KRAK
KRAK KRAK
RNK
COME NOW. YOU CAN DO IT.
ARE YOU ABLE TO STAY UP LIKE THIS? CAN YOU STAND BY YOURSELF?
GOOD! THAT'S IT.
RNK

JUSTINE... I'M SURE IT WAS HARD FOR YOU. BUT YOU'VE RETURNED TO LIFE NOW.
THIS MOMENT IS THE FIRST STEP.
GIVING YOU NEW LIFE WAS MY DUTY AND MY REWARD.
...NOW, LET'S GET THOSE BANDAGES OFF.
KRRRK
KRAK KRAK

THE STITCHING'S QUITE UGLY RIGHT NOW, BUT AT SOME POINT I INTEND TO OPERATE AGAIN SO THAT IT'S LESS NOTICEABLE.
JUSTINE... YOU'RE GOING TO START A NEW LIFE NOW. A KIND, GENTLE LIFE...
AAH!
SHRK


KRRK
KREE KREE
KRRK KRRK
VICTOR! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?!
YANK
RRRRIP

GRAAAAOOOOH!
KRRRK
GRR
...
NO, HENRY. WE MUSTN'T GIVE UP YET.
VICTOR, FORGIVE ME. IT APPEARS I WAS WRONG...

OOH, MY WIFE! IT IS MY WEDDING NIGHT!
NOW WE SHALL LIVE TOGETHER IN HARMONY.
KREE KREE KREE
GRAR !!

NGEEEH!
UNH... UNH UNH UNH...
NGEH!
GRAAAOOOH!
THUD

UNH!
SHWP
NGEH!
AH...
UNH UNH!
UNH UNH...
H!SSSSSSS!
NGEEEEEH!
AAAAAAH!
UNH...

THUD
SNAP CRACK
NGEH-
UNNH!
DID YOU THINK TO CREATE HER TO BE MY DOOM, PERHAPS?
IS THIS WHAT THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE?!
DID YOU INTEND, AFTER MY COUNTLESS HARDSHIPS, TO MURDER ME BY HER HAND?!
I TOLD YOU TO MAKE A COMPANION WITH WHOM I COULD SHARE JOY!
FRANKENSTEIN ...!!

YOU SHALL UNDERSTAND ONCE YOU'VE LOST EVERYTHING YOU LOVE!
UNDERSTAND, FRANKENSTEIN? NOW IT'S MY TURN FOR REVENGE. PREPARE YOURSELF!
I WON'T BE DONE IN SO EASILY.
H-HE INTENDS TO TAKE THE LIVES OF FATHER AND ELIZABETH!!
WHAT DID HE MEAN, IT WILL ALL BE OVER?
BY THE TIME YOU RETURN, IT WILL ALL BE OVER!! YOU SHALL REGRET THIS!! FAREWELL, CREATOR!
I GO TO YOUR HOME-LAND NOW!
VICTOR!! YOU CAN'T! NOT INJURED LIKE THIS!
DAMMIT... THAT DEMON! I SHAN'T ALLOW IT!

FOOL!! WHAT CAN YOU DO BY YOURSELF?! THAT DEVIL CAN KILL A BEAR WITH HIS BARE HANDS.
I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT MONSTER. YOU TREAT YOUR WOUND.
...
HENRY!
DON'T FEAR! I HAVE THE FIGHTING SPIRIT OF A KNIGHT OF OLD. I'M TAKING YOUR CARRIAGE, VICTOR!
...
THE NEXT DAY, WHEN I FOLLOWED THE CARRIAGE TRACKS...
THAT WAS MY ETERNAL PARTING FROM HENRY.

THE CARRIAGE ...!
AH!
HENRY ?!
HENRY ...
THE MONSTER HAD KILLED HENRY!
HENRY!

I...I'LL ABSOLUTELY COME BACK FOR YOU!
HENRY... FORGIVE ME FOR LEAVING YOU HERE. I MUST RETURN HOME FORTHWITH AND SAVE THOSE WHO YET LIVE.
BUT I HAD NO TIME TO GRIEVE FOR MY FRIEND.

...
DEAD. MURDERED.
AND SO...
...YOUR FATHER AND YOUR FIANCÉE AT HOME...WERE THEY SAFE?
I WAS ONE STEP BEHIND HIM. WHEN I ARRIVED HOME, I FOUND THEIR BODIES.
MY FATHER IN THE STUDY ...
...AND ELIZABETH WAS ON HER BED, CLAD IN THE BRIDAL FINERY SET ASIDE FOR OUR WEDDING TO COME...
ELIZA-BETH!
HA HA HA HA HA
AH!

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA
AND THEN THE CHASE BEGAN.
IT WAS THE START OF A LONG, DIFFICULT JOURNEY.
THAT DEVIL FLED, ALL THE WHILE DELIBERATELY LEAVING SIGNS SO THAT I COULD FOLLOW. I COULD ALMOST HEAR HIM SNEERING AT ME.
THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD HOVERED ROUND AND INSTIGATED ME TO TOIL AND REVENGE. I PREPARED FOR MY JOURNEY.

ONCE, AFTER THE POOR ANIMALS THAT CONVEYED ME HAD WITH INCREDIBLE TOIL GAINED THE SUMMIT OF A SLOPING ICE MOUNTAIN, ONE, SINKING UNDER HIS FATIGUE, DIED.
I'VE ENDURED MISERY WHICH NOTHING BUT THE HUNGER OF A JUST RETRIBUTION COULD EVER ENABLE ME TO STAND.
PLEASE REST FOR NOW.
MR. FRANKENSTEIN. YOU SEEM QUITE EXHAUSTED.
IMMEDIATELY AFTER THAT... I ENCOUNTERED YOU, CAPTAIN WALTON. YOU AND YOUR SHIP.
KRK
KRK
KRK
KRK

BOSUN, IT WAS A SHOCKING TALE. IN TERMS OF COMMON SENSE, IT'S A HARD ONE TO BELIEVE, BUT WE OURSELVES DID WITNESS THE GIANT ON THE SLEDGE.
AGAIN ?!
BOSUN! BAD NEWS! THE SHIP'S SURROUNDED BY ICE AGAIN. WE CAN'T MOVE!
KRK
KRK
KRK
KRK

YES, THAT'S RIGHT!
IT WILL ONLY GET MORE DANGEROUS THE FURTHER WE GO.
CAPTAIN WALTON, ARE YOU SAYING WE MUST KEEP HEADING NORTH EVEN IN THIS SITUATION?
CAPTAIN, WHAT'RE WE TO DO? LAY IT OUT PLAIN AND CLEAR!
...AS CAPTAIN, YOU MUST PREVENT ANY FURTHER SACRIFICE OF MY MEN.
BOSUN... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WE ARE FORCED TO TURN BACK. ENDEAVORING ON RISKS MUTINY.
...AND SO, MR. FRANKENSTEIN, I HAVE NOW BEEN PRESSED INTO A CHOICE. TWO OF THE CREW HAVE ALREADY DIED FROM COLD AND EXHAUSTION.

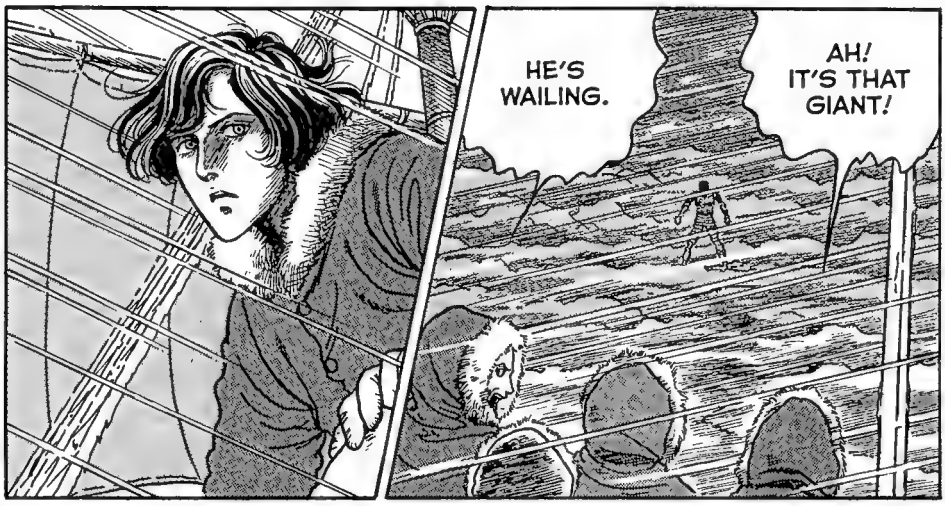
HERE, I HAVE ONE REQUEST... COULD YOU LET ME HAVE A BOAT? I WILL GO AFTER HIM IN THAT...
HAH HAH
I SEE... TURNING BACK IS ONE WAY...BUT... I MUST GO FORWARD...
YOU MUST LIVE A NEW LIFE. IT'S HARD TO ADMIT DEFEAT, I KNOW. BUT I MUST DO THE SAME.
YOU CAN'T! I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, BUT PLEASE RETURN WITH US.
HAA HAAH
SHALL WE NOT MOVE FORWARD IN LIFE TOGETHER, AS FRIENDS?!
THE ONLY PATH LEFT TO ME... IS TO DESTROY THAT DEMON.
ALL OF MY FRIENDS ARE DEAD... THEIR SHADOWS WHISPER IN MY HEART...

HYOOOOOO
NOW THEN, CAPTAIN!
WE'LL HAVE YOUR ANSWER AS TO HOW WE PROCEED!
LISTEN TO ME, MEN! I PUT YOUR LIVES ABOVE ALL ELSE!
I'VE DECIDED TO PULL OUT!
BOSUN! TURN THIS SHIP DUE SOUTH IMMEDIATELY!
YAAAH!
HOORAH!

AND WHAT DID *HE* SAY? HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE NORTH ALONE?
CAPTAIN WALTON, YOU MADE THE RIGHT DECISION. AS SHIP'S BOATSWAIN, I THANK YOU.
MO-MENTS AGO ...
HE DIED ...
HYOOOOO
NGAAAAAAAH

NGAAAAAH
WHAT WAS THAT?!
AAAAAAH
WHENCE DOES IT COME...?
NO... THAT'S A HUMAN CRY.
A POLAR BEAR?!
AAAAAAH!
AH! LOOK!

AAAAAAH


HE'S WAILING.
AH! IT'S THAT GIANT!

MY MAKER HAS LEFT ME AND DIED.
I KNOW IT... I FEEL IT!!
MY MAKER HAS DIED!
NOW I AM ALONE!
NOW THERE IS NO ONE.
BUT... SOON THIS SUFFERING, TOO, SHALL END...

In the increasing fierce snowstorm, his figure too soon vanished.
(Robert Walton)
The monster's voice gradually faded until we could no longer hear it.

FRANKENSTEIN / END

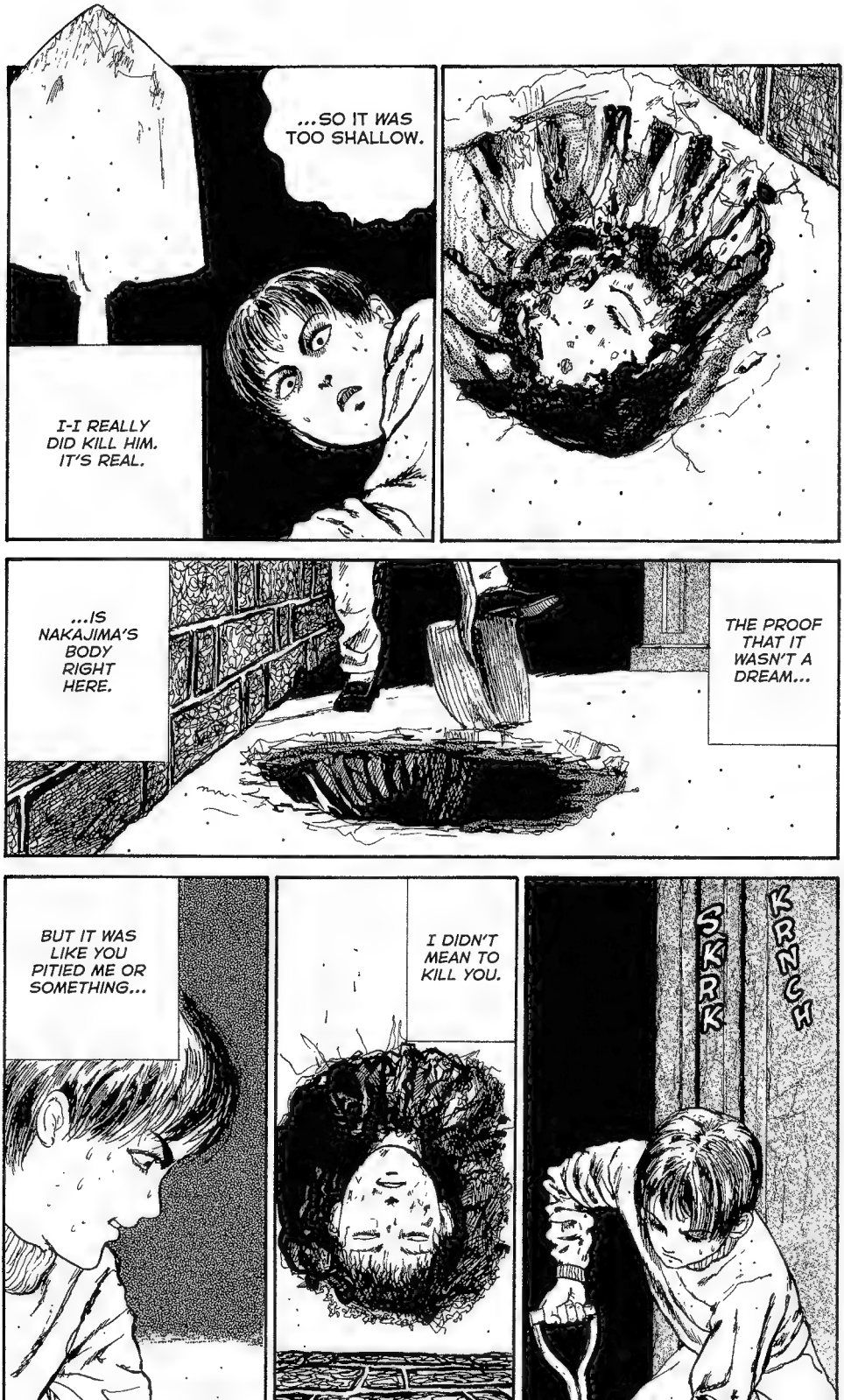
NECK SPECTER

SLEEP DEEP IN THE EARTH, NAKAJIMA.

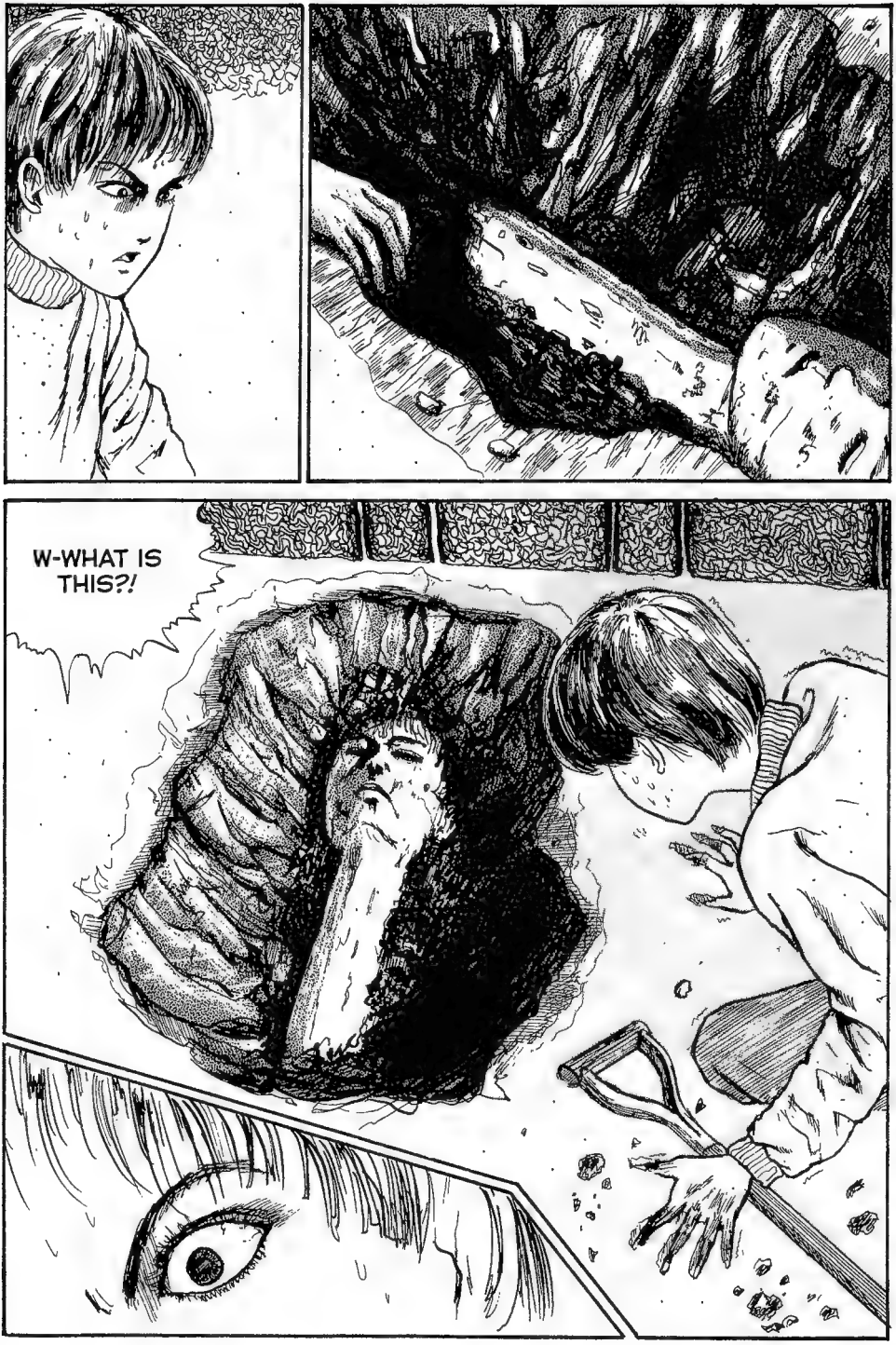
I REALLY DO NEED TO REBURY HIM. DEEPER.

KRCH

BECAUSE HE GREW.
HE GOT WAY TALLER THAN ME.
LAST NIGHT, I KILLED MY BEST FRIEND, NAKAJIMA...
...OVER SOMETHING STUPID.
AND THERE I WAS, THE SAME AS ALWAYS. YOU TRIED TO CHEER ME UP—IT WAS SO AWKWARD.
I MEAN, YOU WERE A SHRIMP LIKE ME NOT TOO LONG AGO.
YOU WERE SO COOL, NAKAJIMA.
KRICH

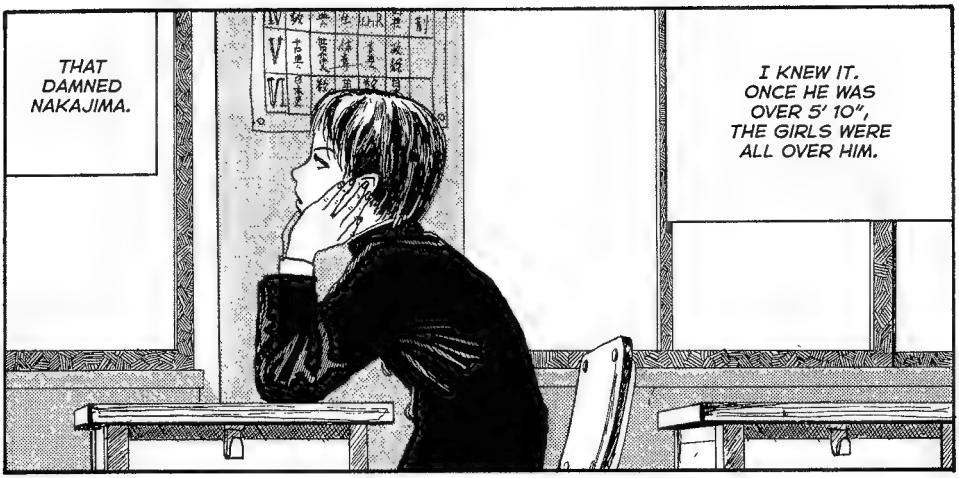

...SO IT WAS TOO SHALLOW.
I-I REALLY DID KILL HIM. IT'S REAL.
...IS NAKAJIMA'S BODY RIGHT HERE.
THE PROOF THAT IT WASN'T A DREAM...
BUT IT WAS LIKE YOU PITIED ME OR SOMETHING...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL YOU.
KRNCH
SKRK

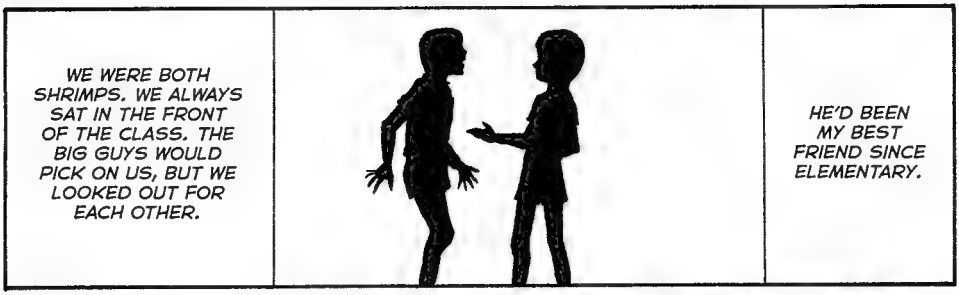
...I COULDN'T STAND IT.
AH!
THD
DID THAT HURT?
SORRY.
...?
SHRK
SHRK

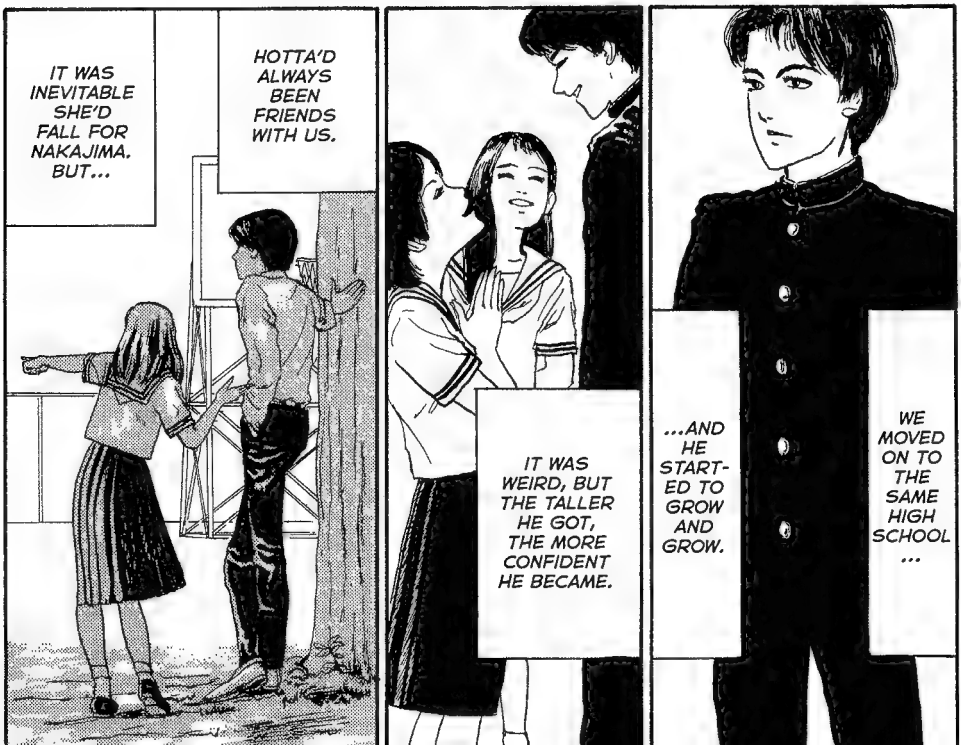

W-WHAT IS THIS?!

AND THAT LENGTH, THAT'S NOT NORMAL.
A NECK COULD NEVER GET THAT LONG.
THERE'S NO WAY. I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A DEAD BODY'S NECK GROWING.
'SUP.
WHAT WAS THAT LAST NIGHT? THE BODY IN THE GARDEN. I WAS PANICKED INTO COVERING IT BACK UP, BUT...
...MY HEAD'S A MESS. WAS THAT REAL?
I WAS HALLUCINATING. I WAS TOO WORKED UP IS ALL.
THE STATE I WAS IN, IT'S NO WONDER I WAS SEEING THINGS.
AH!
I'LL DOUBLE-CHECK TONIGHT.
OSHIKIRI.

HIS MOM CALLED US LAST NIGHT.
ANYWAY, OSHIKIRI, IT'S AWFUL. NAKAJIMA'S MISSING.
WHAT?
OH, IT'S YOU, HOTTA. YOU SCARED ME.
YOU GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK.
NO WAY.
I'M WORRIED. I WONDER IF HE WAS IN AN ACCIDENT.
O-OH, SHE CALLED US, TOO. HIS MOM, I MEAN.
THAT'S HOW CLOSE SHE WAS WITH NAKAJIMA, THEN.
NAKAJIMA'S MOM CALLED HOTTA.
HMM... NO, NOTHING.
HEY, OSHIKIRI? CAN YOU THINK OF ANYTHING?

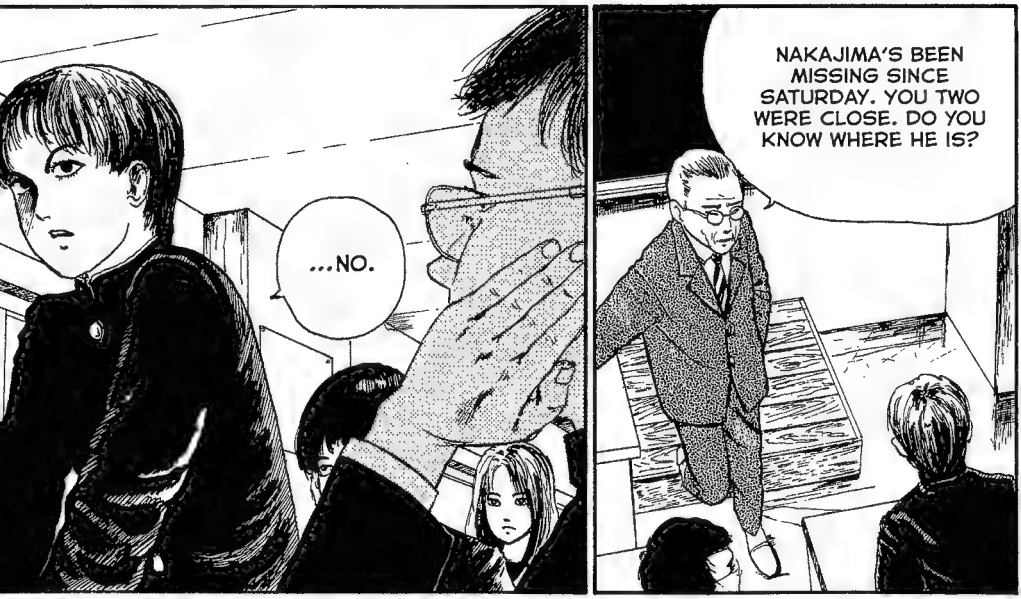

THAT DAMNED NAKAJIMA.
I KNEW IT. ONCE HE WAS OVER 5' 10", THE GIRLS WERE ALL OVER HIM.


WE WERE BOTH SHRIMPS. WE ALWAYS SAT IN THE FRONT OF THE CLASS. THE BIG GUYS WOULD PICK ON US, BUT WE LOOKED OUT FOR EACH OTHER.
HE'D BEEN MY BEST FRIEND SINCE ELEMENTARY.


IT WAS INEVITABLE SHE'D FALL FOR NAKAJIMA. BUT...
HOTTA'D ALWAYS BEEN FRIENDS WITH US.
IT WAS WEIRD, BUT THE TALLER HE GOT, THE MORE CONFIDENT HE BECAME.
...AND HE START-ED TO GROW AND GROW.
WE MOVED ON TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL ...

THAT'S SUPER FAST. CAN YOU EVEN BELIEVE IT?
YEAH. IT'S WEIRD TO ME, TOO. EIGHT INCHES IN ONE YEAR.
OH!
A YEAR AGO, YOU WERE THE SAME HEIGHT AS ME.
I MEAN, TO ME, HOTTA WAS...
YOU REALLY DID JUST SHOOT UP, HUH, NAKAJIMA?
OH, I WAS JUST PASSING BY.
HEY, OSHIKIRI... I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE.
RIGHT.
HE'LL GROW, TOO. FOR SURE.
OKAY. I'VE GOT A THING, SO.

WERE YOU NOT LISTENING?
YES!
HEY! OSHIKIRI!
QUIT TRYING TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER.


...NO.
NAKAJIMA'S BEEN MISSING SINCE SATURDAY. YOU TWO WERE CLOSE. DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS?

GOT A MINUTE?
OSHIKIRI.

YOUR BEST FRIEND'S MISSING, BUT YOU DON'T LOOK WORRIED AT ALL.
SO, LIKE, OSHIKIRI...
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
WHAT'S UP, HOTTA?

WHICH IS WHY THE WAY YOU'RE ACTING NOW JUST SEEMS SO UNNATURAL TO ME.
BUT...I REALLY ADMIRED YOUR FRIENDSHIP.
IT'S JUST, YOU GUYS ARE SO CLOSE. YOU'VE GOT A SOLID FRIENDSHIP.
LIKE, SOMETIMES, I'D EVEN GET JEALOUS AND STUFF.

I'M NOT SAYING HE'S DEAD!
MAYBE HE WENT OFF ON HIS OWN. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO MEAN HE'S DEAD.
BUT "MISSING" CAN MEAN ALL KINDS OF THINGS.
I DON'T. I DIDN'T SEE HIM ON SATURDAY.
REALLY? YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW?
IT'S JUST A FIGURE OF SPEECH...
I SAW HIM. I SAW NAKAJIMA GO INTO YOUR HOUSE ON SATURDAY EVENING.
LIAR!!
!

I REALLY DON'T KNOW ANY-THING.
IT WAS DARK. YOU WERE MISTAKEN.
MY COUSIN. HE'S IN UNIVERSITY. HE ALWAYS COMES ON SATURDAY TO HELP ME STUDY.
THAT WAS TAKAYUKI.
OH... YEAH, THAT.
YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME.
HOTTA!!

GET BACK!
OSHIKIRI.
AH!
STAY AWAY!
EEAH
DA KOZY

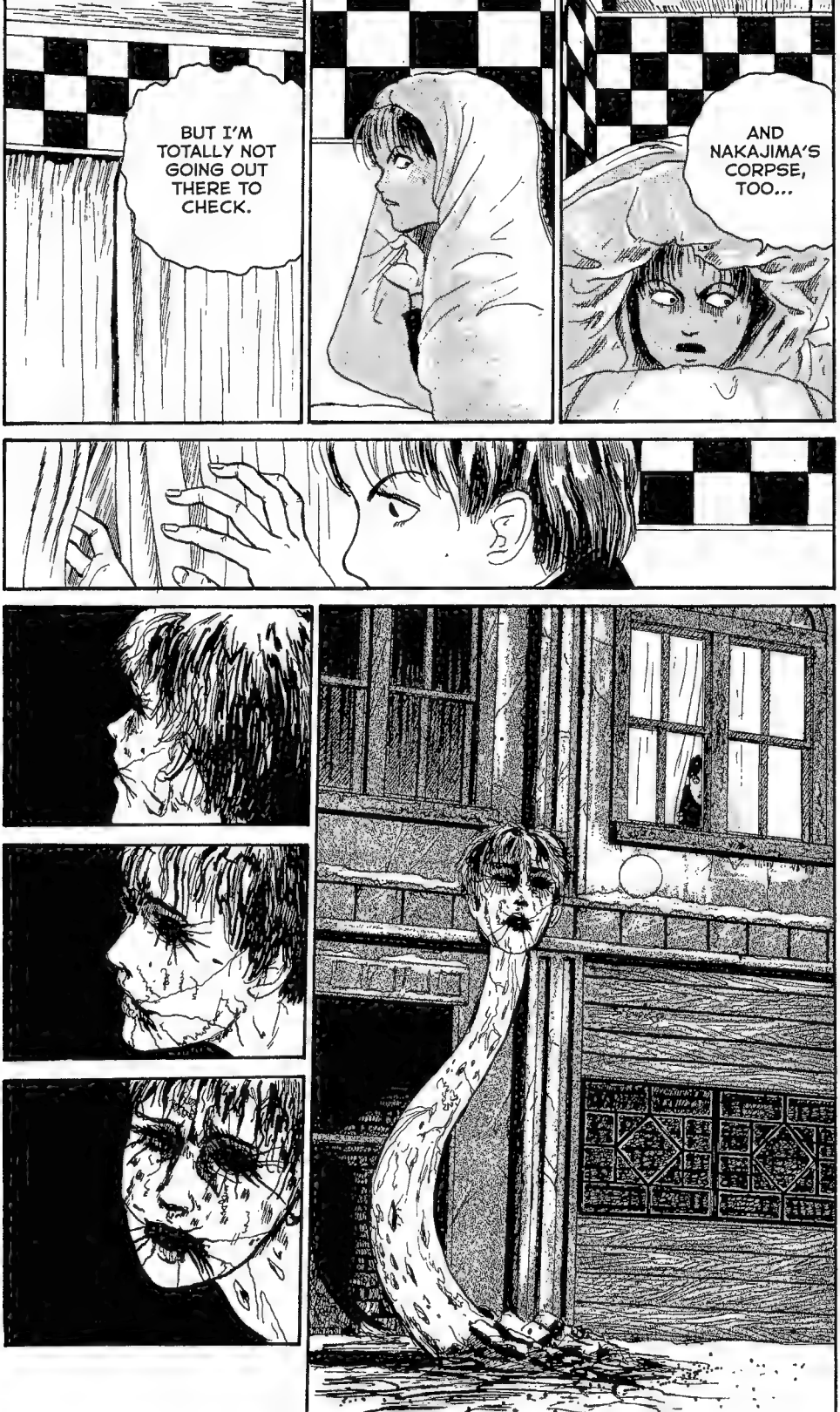
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HEY! QUIT IT!
W-WHAT THE HELL...
LOOK AT HER NECK.
LET GO! SHE'S A MONSTER.
YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME!
HER NECK GREW SUPER LONG!
NO... I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S TRUE!
THIS IS BAD. GET A TEACHER!
YOU OKAY?!
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!

YOU'RE NORMALLY SO QUIET. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D HURT A GIRL.
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?
OSHIKIRI.
THERE'S NO WAY HE'D BELIEVE ME. BUT I REALLY DID SEE IT.
NO, MAYBE I WAS HALLUCINATING. FIRST THE BODY YESTERDAY, NOW HOTTA.
I'M SORRY...
TAKAYUKI WAS ALWAYS SAYING THAT'S WHEN YOU'RE MOST LIKELY TO SEE THINGS.
OSHIKIRI.
THEY BOTH HAPPENED WHEN I WAS UPSET.

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?! PAY ATTENTION!
BANG
OSHIKIRI!
UNNNNGH!
SOME OF THIS–
NO WAY!

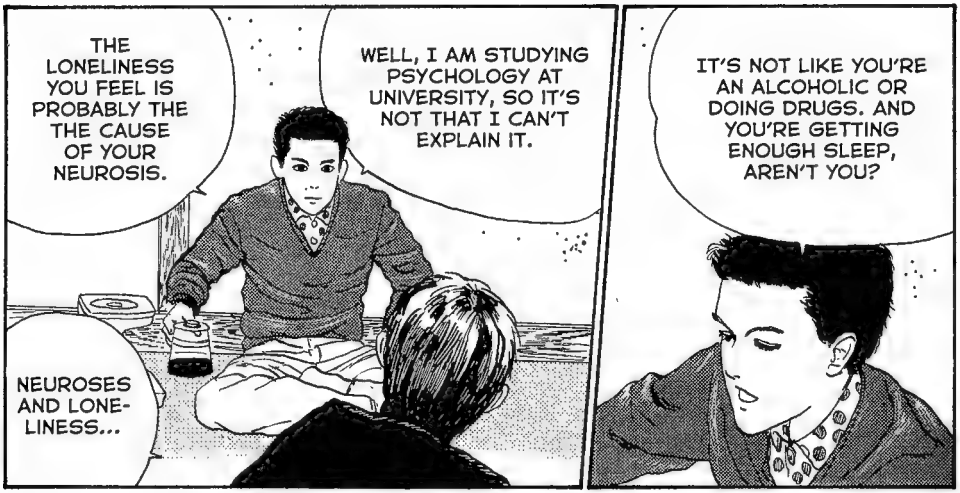
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR NECK?
NOW THEN, OSHIKIRI.
OSHIKIRI! A BOY LIKE YOU!
WHY IS IT SO SHORT?
WHAT'S GOING ON THERE?
LET GO!
I'LL FIX YOU UP!!
AH!

HEY, LOOK!
WHOA! WHAT THE–?!
HIS NECK'S SO SHORT. HE'S A MONSTER.
EEEEAH!
IT'S ALL IN MY HEAD.
I'M HALLUCI-NATING.
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE

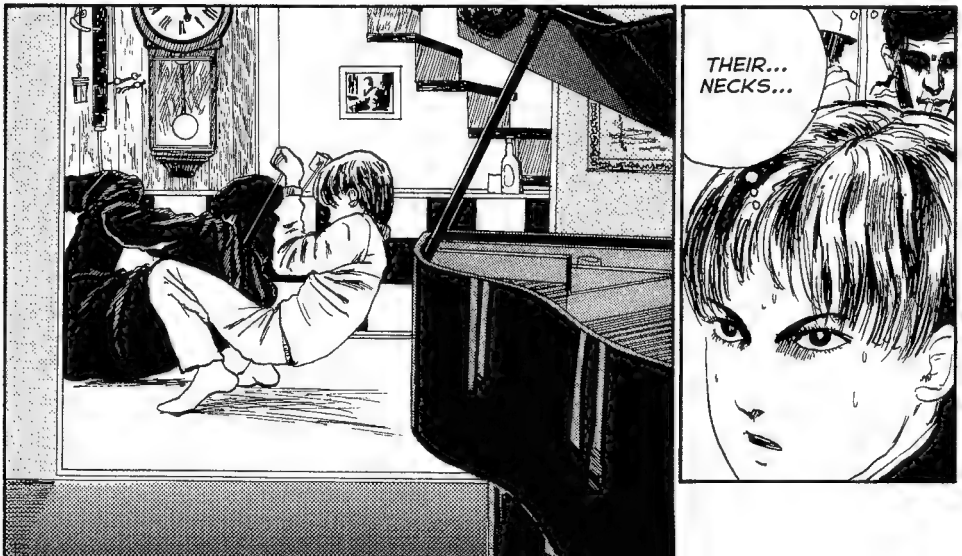

BUT I'M TOTALLY NOT GOING OUT THERE TO CHECK.
AND NAKAJIMA'S CORPSE, TOO...

NO!
CAN I COME INTO YOUR ROOOOOM?
OSHI-KIRI-IIIIII.
SHFK
A-AM I ACTUALLY LOSING MY MIND?

I DECIDED I'D STAY AT TAKAYUKI'S THAT NIGHT.
EVEN KNOWING IT WAS ALL IN MY HEAD, I FELT LIKE NAKAJIMA WAS GOING TO COME INTO MY ROOM AND I COULDN'T SIT STILL.
I RAN DOWN THE ROAD IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
HUFF HUFF
MAYBE... I'M JUST LOSING IT.
EVEN FOR A HALLUCINATION, NECKS GROWING IS PRETTY STRANGE.
RIGHT. I SEE.

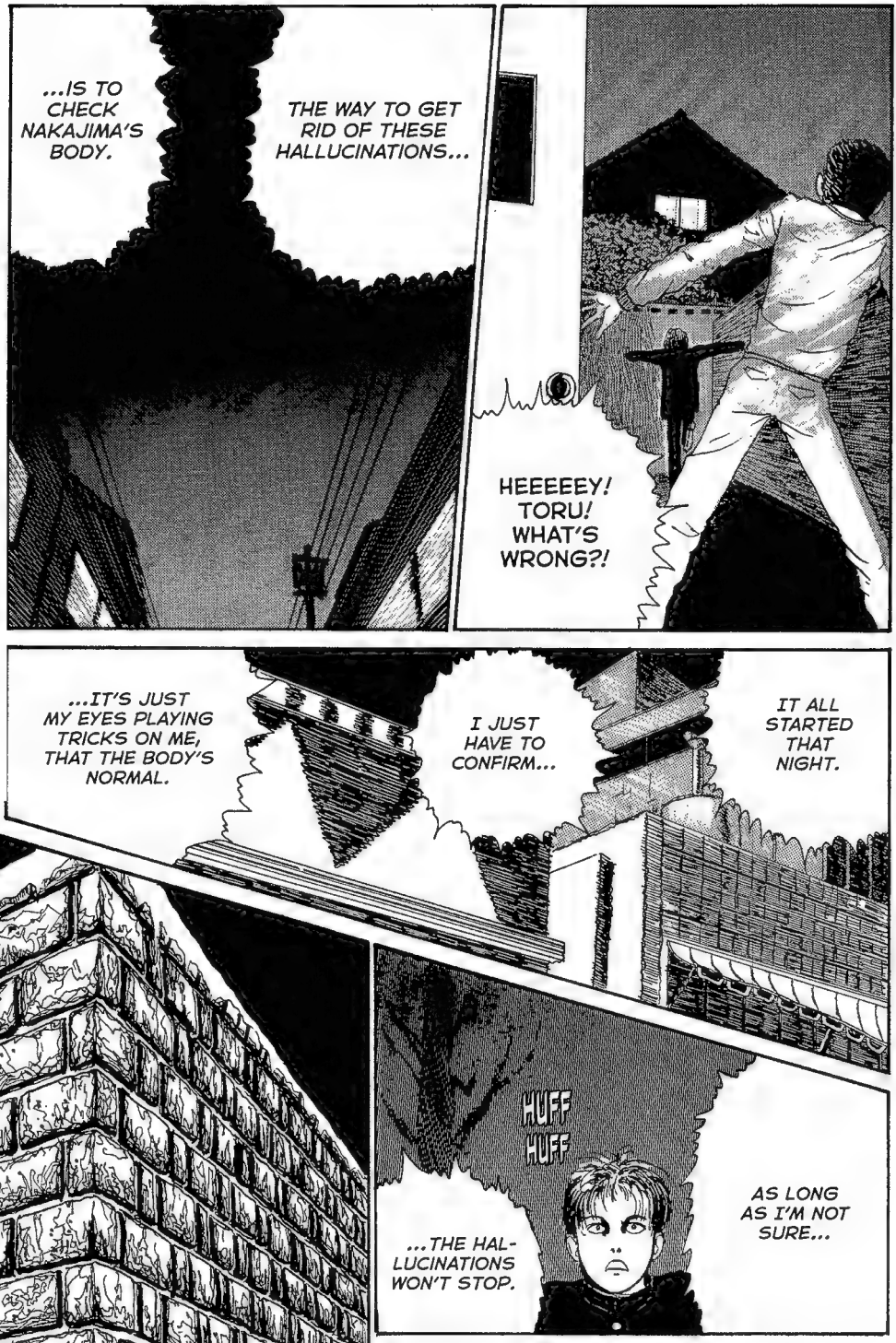

THE LONELINESS YOU FEEL IS PROBABLY THE THE CAUSE OF YOUR NEUROSIS.
WELL, I AM STUDYING PSYCHOLOGY AT UNIVERSITY, SO IT'S NOT THAT I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT.
NEUROSES AND LONE-LINESS...
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE AN ALCOHOLIC OR DOING DRUGS. AND YOU'RE GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP, AREN'T YOU?

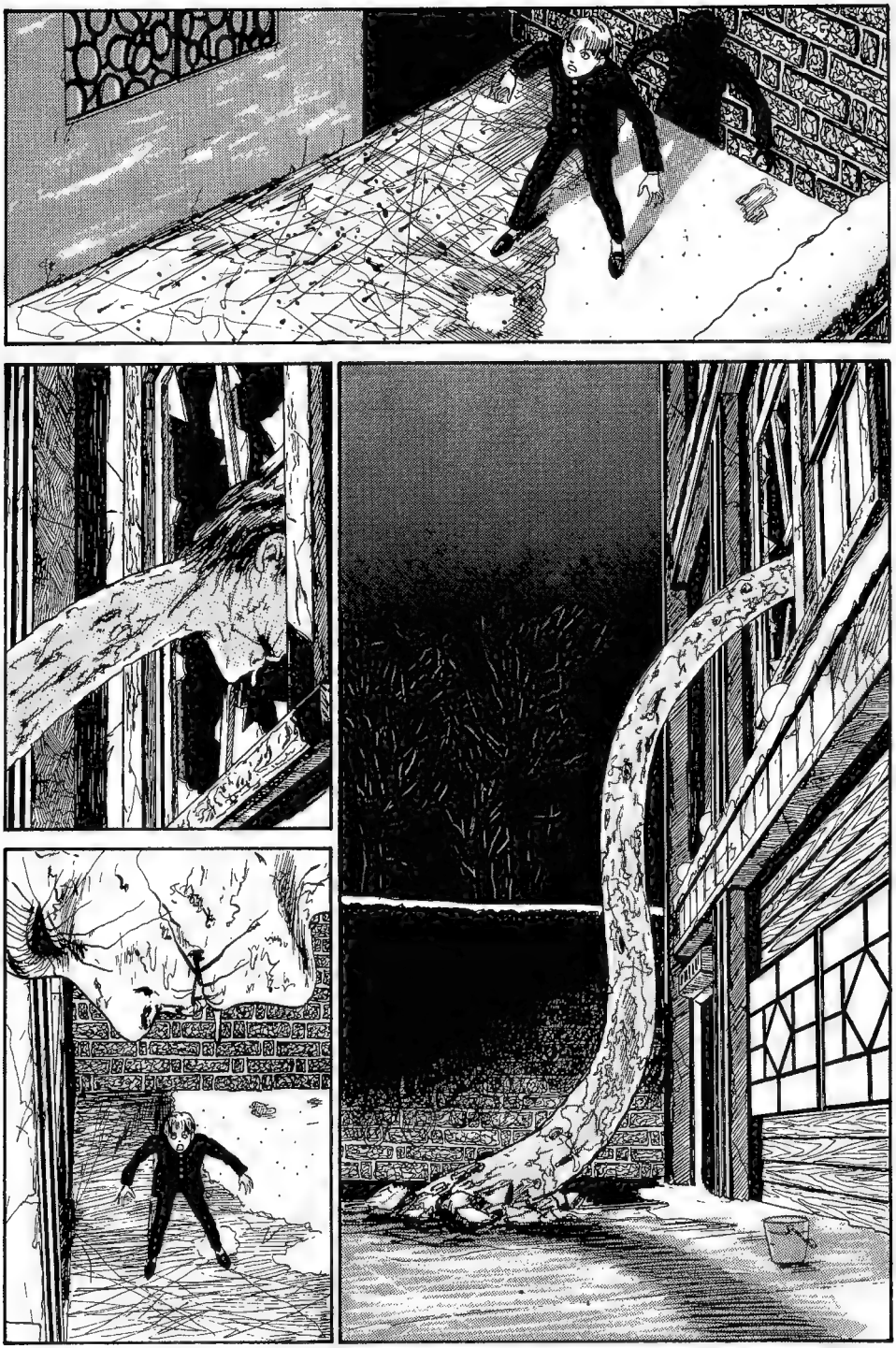
...YOUR ANXIETY ABOUT YOUR HEIGHT. THESE PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS COME TOGETHER, AND YOU HALLUCINATE OTHER PEOPLE GETTING TALLER.
YOUR PARENTS ARE ABROAD FOR WORK. YOU'RE ALL ALONE IN THAT MASSIVE HOUSE. YOU MUST BE LONELY. AND THERE'S ALSO...
ALTHOUGH IT'S WEIRD THAT IT'S JUST THEIR NECKS.


THEIR... NECKS...

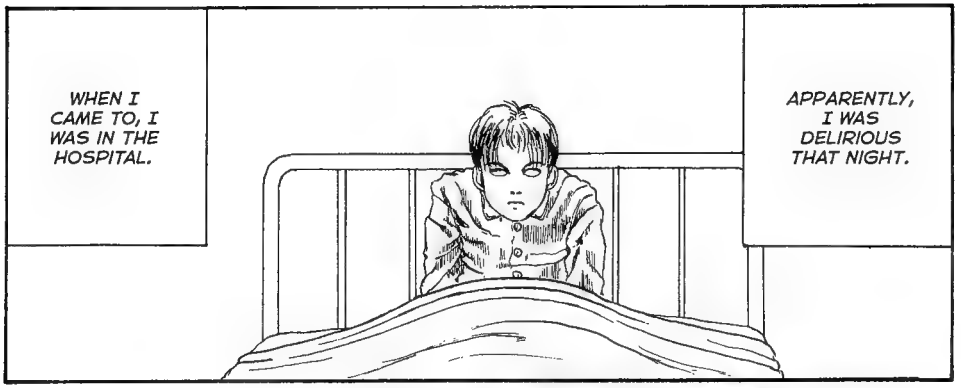
JUST UNTIL YOUR PARENTS COME BACK.
WHY DON'T YOU COME STAY HERE?
TORU?
MY DAD'S ALWAYS SAYING YOU SHOULD.
KUNK
OW!
WELL, IT DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU WANT, THOUGH.

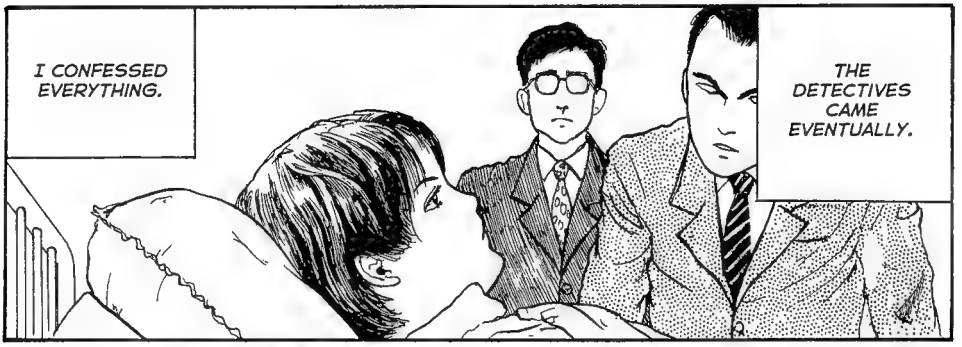
I'M HALLUCINATING RIGHT NOW!
WHAT?!
TAKAYUKI!
WHAT THE-? LOW CEILING.
COME ON! GET IT TOGETHER!
DOES MY NECK LOOK LONGER?!


...IS TO CHECK NAKAJIMA'S BODY.
THE WAY TO GET RID OF THESE HALLUCINATIONS...
HEEEEEY! TORU! WHAT'S WRONG?!
...IT'S JUST MY EYES PLAYING TRICKS ON ME, THAT THE BODY'S NORMAL.
I JUST HAVE TO CONFIRM...
IT ALL STARTED THAT NIGHT.
HUFF HUFF
...THE HAL-LUCINATIONS WON'T STOP.
AS LONG AS I'M NOT SURE...

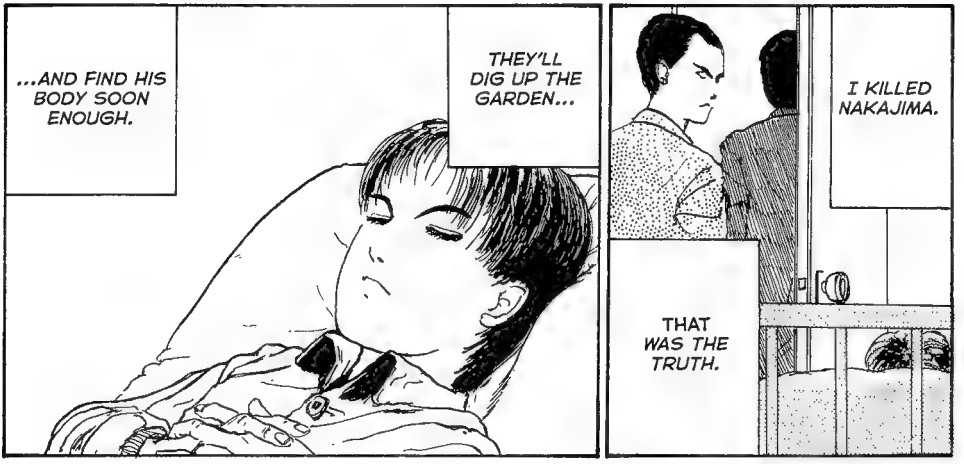


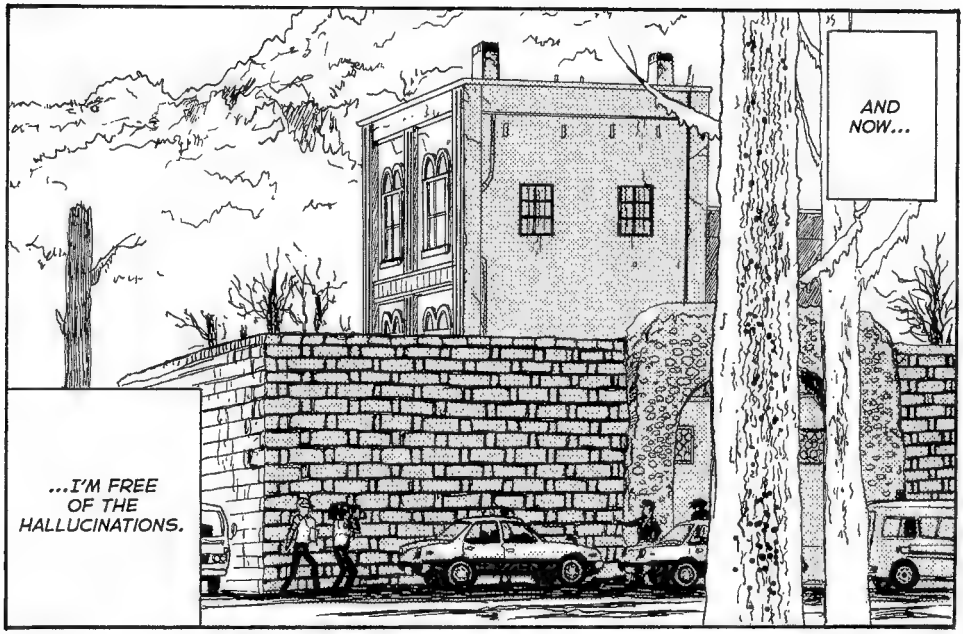
FORGIVE ME!
NAKA-JIMA!
SO THERE YOU ARE.
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? ...IN JUST TWO DAYS...
OSHIKIRI... I... WHAT'S HAPPENING? I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT...LOOK HOW TALL I AM...
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH...
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU STRANGLED ME.

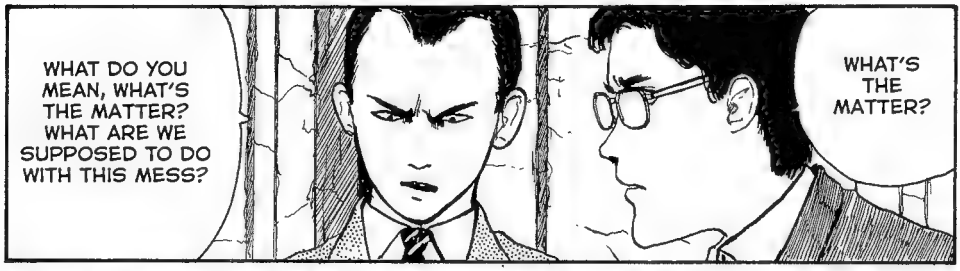

WHEN I CAME TO, I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL.
APPARENTLY, I WAS DELIRIOUS THAT NIGHT.

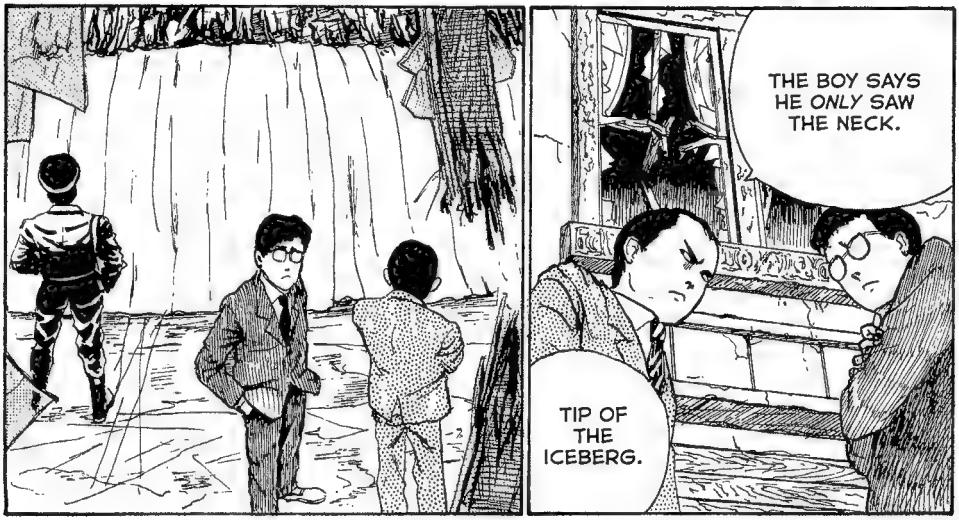

I CONFESSED EVERYTHING.
THE DETECTIVES CAME EVENTUALLY.

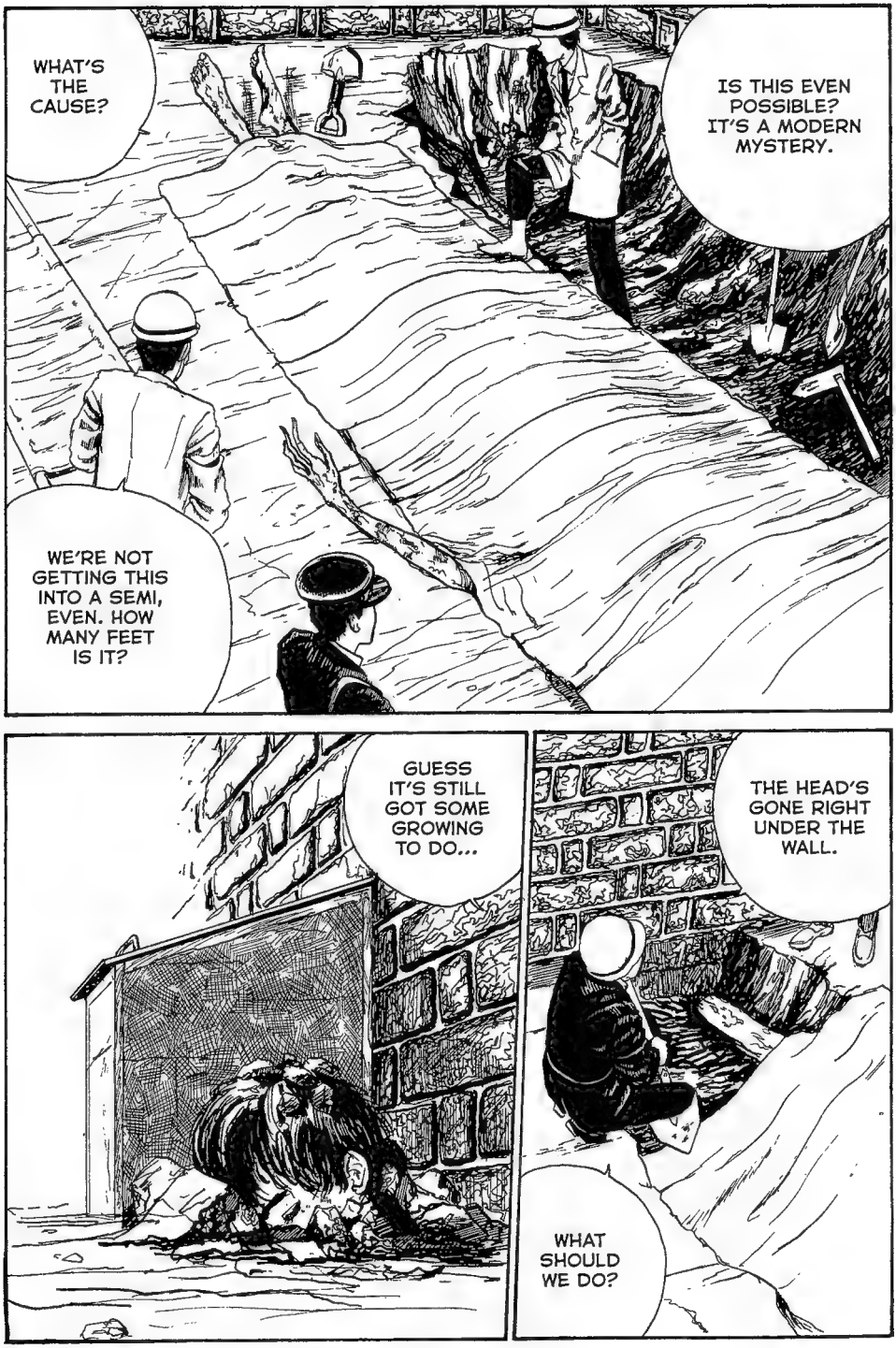
AND NO WONDER. THE HALLUCINATIONS DIDN'T MATTER.
THEY LISTENED TO ME WITH DOUBT ON THEIR FACES.


...AND FIND HIS BODY SOON ENOUGH.
THEY'LL DIG UP THE GARDEN...
I KILLED NAKAJIMA.
THAT WAS THE TRUTH.


AND NOW...
...I'M FREE OF THE HALLUCINATIONS.


WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THIS MESS?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?


THE BOY SAYS HE *ONLY* SAW THE NECK.
TIP OF THE ICEBERG.


WHAT'S THE CAUSE?
IS THIS EVEN POSSIBLE? IT'S A MODERN MYSTERY.
WE'RE NOT GETTING THIS INTO A SEMI, EVEN. HOW MANY FEET IS IT?
GUESS IT'S STILL GOT SOME GROWING TO DO...
THE HEAD'S GONE RIGHT UNDER THE WALL.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

NECK SPECTER / END

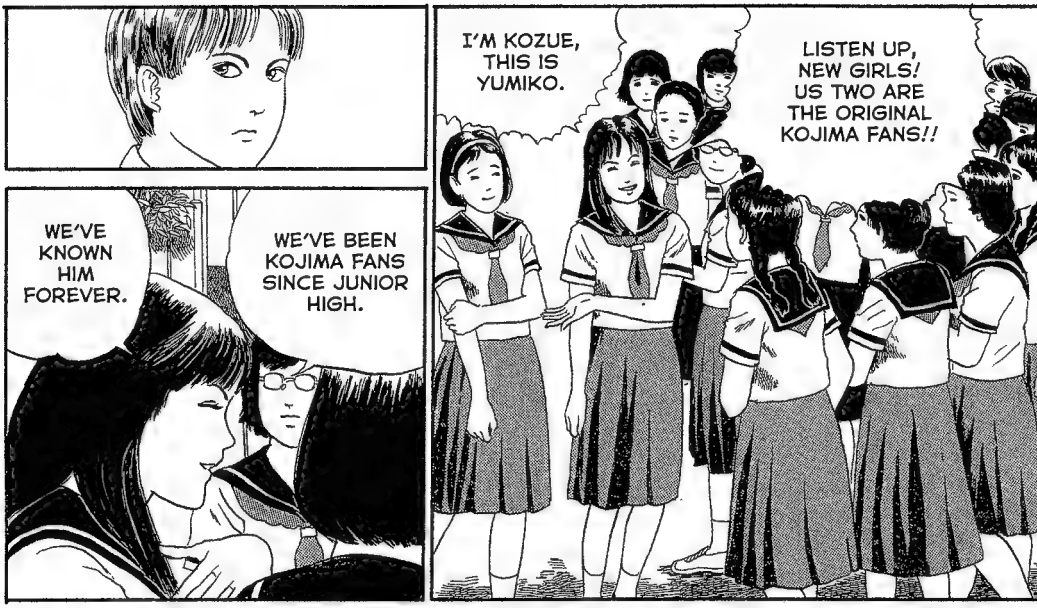
BOG OF LIVING SPIRITS
生霊の沼

LOOK AT ALL THIS GARBAGE. I'LL HAVE TO TELL THE COMMITTEE.
BY THE SPIRIT OF A WOMAN WHO PULLS IN YOUNG MEN.
YEAH, THIS PLACE REALLY DOES SEEM HAUNTED.

UMM, CLASS B, OSHIKIRI. WHAT ABOUT YOUR PARTNER?
...THIS IS THE INAGURAL MEETING OF THE SECOND TERM, AND YET WE HAVE THREE SUDDEN ABSENCES FROM EIGHTH GRADE.
RIGHT.
I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS THE SECOND-TERM ACTIVITIES OF THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE, BUT FIRST...
AND WHAT ABOUT KOZUE TATE, CLASS D, AND YUMIKO SOGA, CLASS F?
KOJIMA HAS A SOCCER TOURNAMENT COMING UP, SO HE WENT TO PRACTICE.
MM-HM. STILL, NO MATTER HOW CLOSE THE TOURNAMENT IS, HE SHOULD BE HERE.
...DO THEY EVEN CARE?
HON-ESTLY ...
YUMIKO TOO.
YEAH. I GUESS KOZUE HAD A THING.

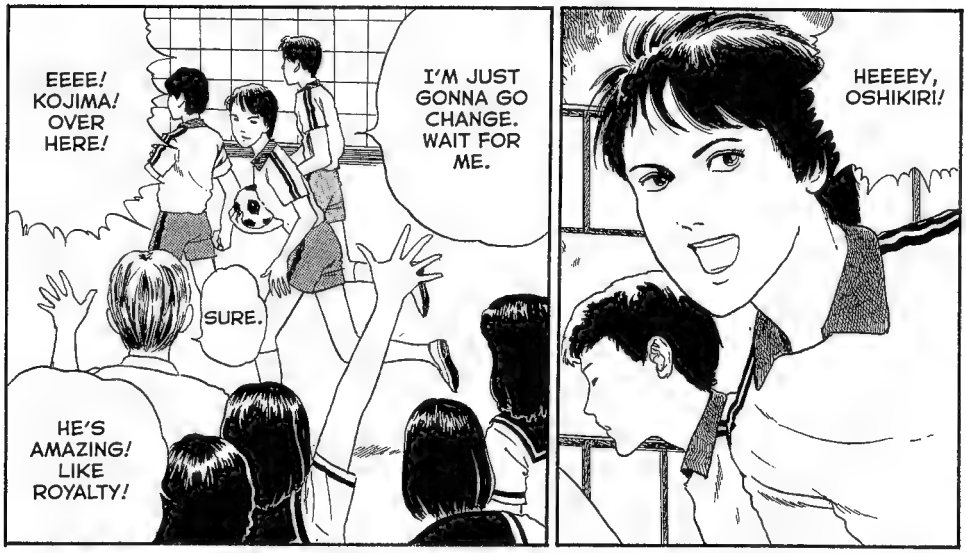
SO I'D LIKE CLEANING THAT UP TO BE FIRST ON THE LIST FOR OUR NEXT WORK DAY.
OH, AND WE'VE HAD A REPORT THAT THE BOG BEHIND THE SCHOOL IS A MESS.
SO WE'LL START WITH AN INSPECTION OF THE CLEANING SUPPLIES IN ALL THE CLASSROOMS.
NO REASON FOR THOSE TWO TO COME IF KOJIMA'S NOT HERE, RIGHT?
WHAAAT? THAT BOG?
ANYWAY, THAT'S OUR FIRST JOB FOR THIS TERM.
GHOSTS DON'T COME OUT DURING THE DAY.
THERE'S A RUMOR IT'S HAUNTED.
CHAIR-MAN.
DUM DUM
SERIOUSLY, WHO WOULD MAKE SUCH A WEIRD REPORT?
I TOTALLY NEVER GO NEAR THAT PLACE.

YOU CAN DO IT!
EEEEE!
KOJI-MAAAAA!
NICE SHOT!
EEEEE!
WHMP
THAT'S HIS BEST FRIEND, OSHIKIRI.
IS THAT BOY A GROUPIE, TOO?
IT'S KOJIMA'S FANS. HE'S SO POPULAR, LIKE A ROCK STAR.
SERIOUSLY. THEY'RE SO LOUD, I CAN'T GET INTO PRACTICE.
HOW'RE WE SUPPOSED TO GET READY FOR THE TOURNAMENT?


I'M KOZUE, THIS IS YUMIKO.
LISTEN UP, NEW GIRLS! US TWO ARE THE ORIGINAL KOJIMA FANS!!
WE'VE KNOWN HIM FOREVER.
WE'VE BEEN KOJIMA FANS SINCE JUNIOR HIGH.

UM, YOU GUYS ARE ON THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE, RIGHT?
WOW, LUCKY, HUH?
WE ARE. SO?
OH, OSHIKIRI!

WHAAAT? CLEANING THE BOG? YUCK.
WE'RE MEETING IN OUR GYM CLOTHES SINCE WE'RE CLEANING THE BOG.
THE CHAIRMAN SAYS NOT TO SKIP NEXT TIME.


EEEE! KOJIMA! OVER HERE!
I'M JUST GONNA GO CHANGE. WAIT FOR ME.
SURE.
HE'S AMAZING! LIKE ROYALTY!
HEEEEY, OSHIKIRI!

WHAT IS *THAT*?!

NO PROB. JUST COMMITTEE WORK STUFF.
SORRY, OSHIKIRI, FOR NOT COMING TO THE MEETING. WHAT WAS IT ABOUT?
HE MUST BE MORE THAN COOL IF THEY'RE GOING THAT FAR.
KOJIMA FROM CLASS B. HE'S COOL, SO ALL THE GIRLS ARE AFTER HIM.

PLEASE DON'T, KOJIMA!
WHAAAT?! THAT BOG?!
WE'RE CLEANING THE BOG NEXT.
OH, WE ARE? I'LL BE THERE.
THE GHOST'LL DEFINITELY TAKE A GREAT GUY LIKE YOU.
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.
WHAAAT?! THAT'S THE KIND OF BOG IT IS?!
I HEARD THIS WOMAN KILLED HERSELF AFTER SHE WAS DUMPED, AND NOW HER SPIRIT PULLS MEN INTO THE BOG...
A FEW YEARS AGO, A GUY DROWNED THERE. AND THEY NEVER FOUND THE BODY...
AND, OF COURSE, HE WAS A GREAT GUY...

KOJIMA, I'M WORRIED. MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T GO.
HA HA HA!
I GUESS.
HEY, IS THAT STORY TRUE?
AND HEARING A STORY LIKE THAT ACTUALLY MAKES ME WANT TO GO EVEN MORE.
BUT...
I'M NOT GOING TO DROWN.
IT'S FINE. THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GHOSTS!
YOU GUYS!
WE'LL HAVE TO PROTECT HIM.
I'M WORRIED.
ME, TOO.
ME, TOO.
OKAY. I'M NOT ON THE COMMITTEE, BUT I'LL COME.

WHAT'S WITH THIS PARADE?
I GUESS THEY'RE KOJIMA'S FANS.
AND THEN THE DAY OF THE CLEANING ARRIVED.
MARCH
MARCH
MARCH
IT'D BE NICE IF THEY WERE GOING TO HELP US.
BUT I'M NOT GETTING MY HOPES UP.
OKAY. LET'S SPLIT INTO GROUPS LIKE WE DISCUSSED AND GET TO WORK.
OKAY.

WHOEVER IT WAS, WE'RE STUCK CLEANING IT UP.
WHO MADE THIS HUGE MESS?
SHUT UP! IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HELP, GO HOME!
HE DOES! HE REALLY DOES! CHAIRMAN, LET HIM STOP!
AAAAH! KOJIMA LOOKS TOTALLY WRONG PICKING UP GARBAGE.
RIGHT? DON'T YOU THINK?
SURE.
HA HA HA! YOU MEAN FROM THE BOG SPIRIT?
I'M ITS TYPE, TOO, YOU KNOW. I GUESS IT'S A SHOWDOWN BETWEEN ME AND KOJIMA.
WE CAN'T! WE HAVE TO PROTECT KOJIMA.

...IS GONNA SHOW...
IF A GHOST OR WHAT-EVER...
I'VE ALWAYS STAYED AWAY FROM THIS PLACE.
BUT, YOU KNOW, NOW THAT I'M HERE, THERE'S REALLY NOTHING TO IT.
I HATE THIS. ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD DO THAT?
PLOSH
...THEN I SAY GO AHEAD!
IT'S FINE. NO WORRIES.
SLAP
SLAP

NO! KOJIMA, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS UP THERE. DON'T GO!
HEY, OSHIKIRI? THERE'S GARBAGE UP ON THAT CLIFF TOO, YEAH?
YEAH.
I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S FINE.
C'MON, OSHI-KIRI.
NOOOO, SOMEONE STOP THEM!
HEYAH!
KOJIMA-AAAA! BE CAREFUL!

HUH ?
WHOA! LOOK AT ALL THIS!
KOJIMA!
EEEEAH!
O-OSHIKIRI ...!
AH!
ZZSH

AAAAAH!
KOJIMA!
KOJIMA!
EEEAAA-AAH!
KO-JIMA!
SPLOOSH

ARE YOU OKAY ?!
KOJIMAA-AAAA!
NOOO! KOJIMA!
HEY... HE'S NOT COMING UP. DID HE DROWN?
HANG ON! I'LL SAVE HIM!
SPLISH
SPLISH
YOU HAVE TO HELP HIM!
I-I CAN'T SWIM...
SPLASH

SPLUSH
KOJI-MAA-AAAA!
NOOO-OO!
IT'S NO USE!! IT'S TOO MUDDY. I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING!
THE SEARCH FOR KOJIMA CONTINUED LATE INTO THE NIGHT, BUT NOT ONLY WAS THE WATER VERY MURKY, THERE WAS ALGAE ALL OVER THE PLACE, COMPLICATING THE RESCUE OPERATION.
EVENTUALLY, THE SEARCH THAT NIGHT WAS CALLED OFF...

NATURALLY, RUMORS STARTED FLYING AT SCHOOL.
YOU THINK THE LADY GHOST'S WRAPPED AROUND KOJIMA'S BODY?
QUIT IT. THAT'S TOO CREEPY.
KOJIMA'S BODY WASN'T FOUND LATER, EITHER.
THE RUMORS WERE TRUE.
YEAH, HE WAS BEWITCHED BY THE GHOST.
I WAS WALKING BY LAST NIGHT.
IT WAS DEFINITELY A GHOST ORB.
WHAT?! FOR REAL?!
SO... I SAW A GHOST ORB AT THE BOG.
GHOST ORB...?
OTHERS SAID THEY SAW KOJIMA'S SPIRIT...
...OR HEARD A WOMAN CALLING HIS NAME.
MORE THAN A FEW STUDENTS CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN A GHOST ORB AT THE BOG.
THE CONSENSUS WAS THAT IT HAD TO BE KOJIMA'S SPIRIT.

EVERYONE'S TALKING. I FIGURED THEY WOULD...
BUT THIS IS MORE THAN I EXPECT-ED.
LIKE GHOSTS EXIST!
THOSE TWO ARE REALLY WASTING AWAY.
THEY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
THEY DON'T KNOW KOJIMA'S STILL ALIVE...
EVERY-THING'S GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN.
IT ALL STARTED WHEN WE WERE TALKING ONE DAY.
WE MANAGED TO DITCH THE FANS AND HEAD TO KOJIMA'S HOUSE. WE WANTED TO TALK JUST US GUYS FOR ONCE.
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK ATTRACTS THEM TO ME?
I BROUGHT UP THE FAN GROUP TO TEASE HIM. BUT...
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? THOSE GIRLS ARE WEIRD.
HIS ATTITUDE SURPRISED ME.
I-I GET IT.

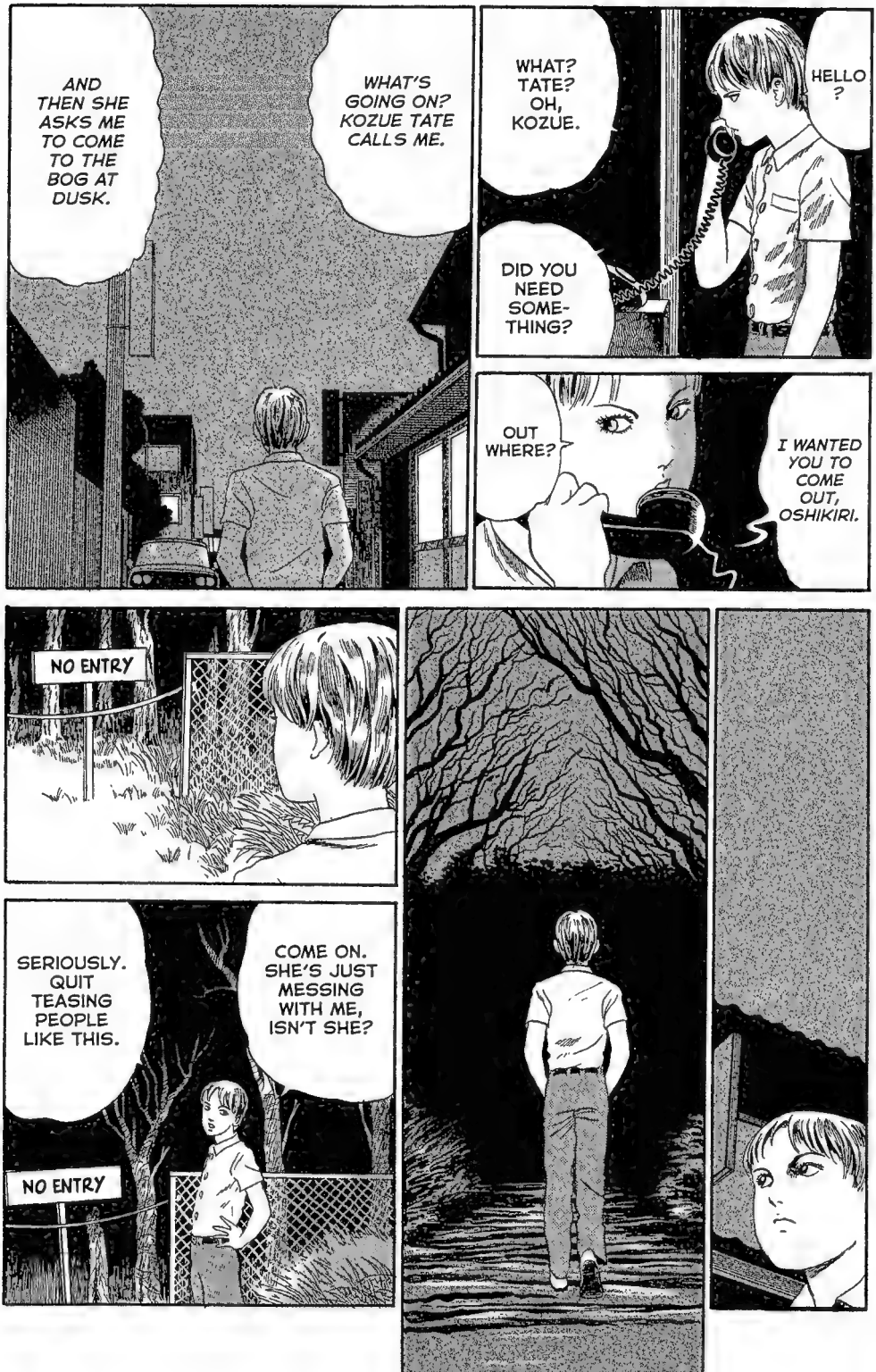
THOSE TWO ARE THE WEIRD ONES. SO PERSIS-TENT...
THE PROBLEM IS KOZUE AND YUMIKO. THE REST JUST FOLLOW THEM.
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME! I'M SO SICK OF THEM. I TRIP OVER THEM MORNING TO NIGHT. I'M NOT ACTUALLY A ROCK STAR.
I DIDN'T KNOW. I JUST ASSUMED YOU LIKED IT.
IT'S JUST... LEAVING HOME'S NOT ENOUGH. TO REALLY ESCAPE...
I'D EVEN LEAVE HOME IF IT MEANT I COULD GET AWAY FROM THEM.
THE MORE I TRY TO RUN, THE MORE INTO ME THEY GET. IT FEELS LIKE THEY'RE GOING TO FOLLOW ME MY WHOLE LIFE.
THEY GET WIND OF IT NO MATTER WHERE I GO AND COME RUNNING AFTER ME. THEY EVEN MANAGED TO TAG ALONG ON A TRIP I PLANNED IN SECRET.
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED THEN?
IF YOU HATE IT THAT MUCH, CAN'T YOU JUST TELL THEM?
YOU'VE REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT THIS... BUT AREN'T YOU KIND OF OVERDOING IT?
I DID. BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH.
WHOA! HANG ON.
...MY ONLY CHOICE IS TO FAKE MY DEATH. WILL YOU HELP ME?

KOZUE IN PARTICULAR IS MY TYPE... ANYWAY.
THEY LOOK LIKE NORMAL CUTE GIRLS.
OR MAYBE HE'S ALREADY STARTED IT. AT ANY RATE, HE'LL CALL ME. BUT...
...I THOUGHT HE WAS JOKING, BUT HE REALLY DID IT.
IT TURNED INTO THIS HUGE DEAL, BUT RIGHT ABOUT NOW, KOJIMA'S PROBABLY ON A JOURNEY TO HIS NEW LIFE...
KOJIMA PRETENDED TO DROWN IN THE BOG. AND THEN HE RAN AWAY FROM HOME. I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS.
NO ENTRY

NO ENTRY
IN THE BOG, TWO STUDENTS ...!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MR. TAKAHASHI ?!
BAD NEWS!
SIR!

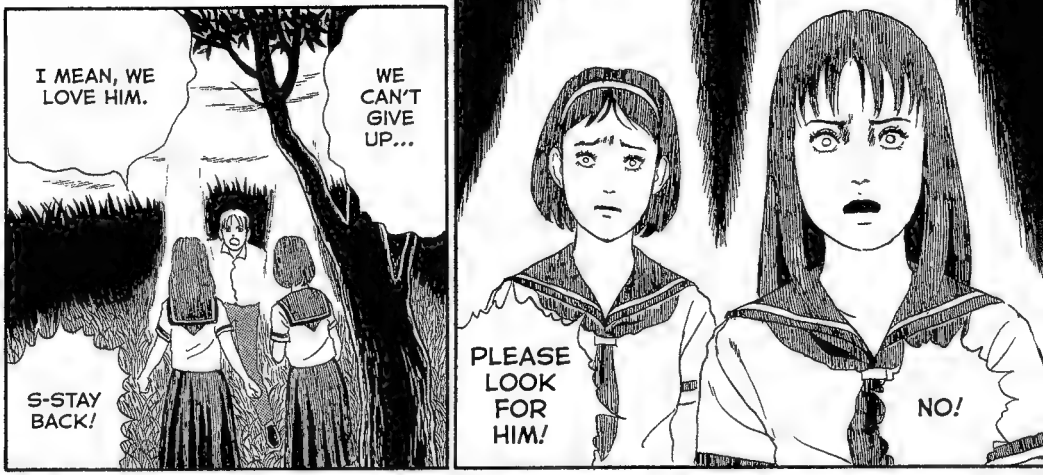
THERE'S NO MISTAKE. THESE ARE THE BOYS WHO WENT MISSING A FEW DAYS AGO.
NO ENTRY
CHATTER CHATTER
AH! I WAS TOO.
THIS IS SERIOUS. I WAS THERE TOO.
YOU HEAR? IT'S THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE.
THE VICE CHAIRMAN THREW A ROCK IN.
WHAT? SO, PEOPLE FROM THE BOG CLEANUP!
BUT IS IT JUST COINCIDENCE THAT THREE OF US ARE DEAD?
DON'T WORRY. IT'S NOT LIKE CURSES ACTUALLY EXIST.
OSHIKIRI. YOU THINK WE'RE OKAY? WE'RE ON THE COMMITTEE TOO.

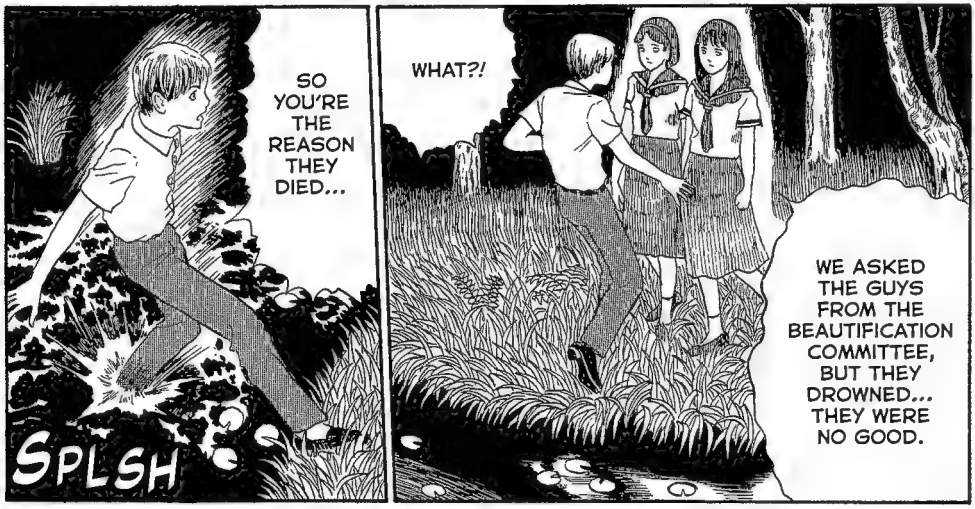
CHATTER
CHATTER
WHAT IS GOING ON? I MEAN, TWO GUYS DYING AT THE SAME TIME.
MAYBE IT IS A CURSE...
...
RRRRING
I WONDER IF HE'S DOING OKAY.
PROBABLY KOJIMA.
RRRRING

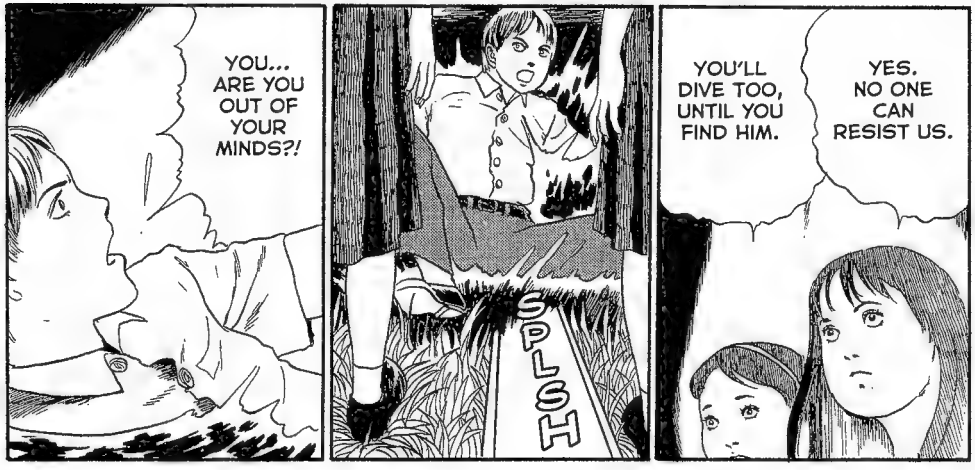

AND THEN SHE ASKS ME TO COME TO THE BOG AT DUSK.
WHAT'S GOING ON? KOZUE TATE CALLS ME.
HELLO ?
WHAT? TATE? OH, KOZUE.
DID YOU NEED SOME-THING?
OUT WHERE?
I WANTED YOU TO COME OUT, OSHIKIRI.
NO ENTRY
SERIOUSLY. QUIT TEASING PEOPLE LIKE THIS.
COME ON. SHE'S JUST MESSING WITH ME, ISN'T SHE?
NO ENTRY

OSHIKIRI, YOU CAME. THANKS.
COME IN.
I DIDN'T SEE YOU.
HUH? SO THAT'S WHERE YOU WERE?
I'M SORRY. WE ACTUALLY HAD A FAVOR TO ASK.
WHAT'S GOING ON? I MEAN, ASKING ME TO MEET YOU HERE.
A FAVOR?
COME ON. SERIOUSLY?

DO YOU, OSHIKIRI? HE WAS OUR EVERYTHING.
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH KOJIMA MEANT TO US...?
EVERY DAY SINCE WE LOST KOJIMA TO THE BOG HAS BEEN SO HARD. SO HARD...
WE WANT YOU TO LOOK FOR KOJIMA. DIVE INTO THE BOG.
I GET IT. I GET IT, BUT...
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT IT?
NO WAY! THE RESCUE TEAM TORE THE BOG UP ALREADY.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FIND ANYTHING.
WE WANT TO AT LEAST GET HIS BODY BACK!
WE'RE TOTALLY SERIOUS!
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
DIVE INTO THE BOG?!


I MEAN, WE LOVE HIM.
WE CAN'T GIVE UP...
S-STAY BACK!
PLEASE LOOK FOR HIM!
NO!

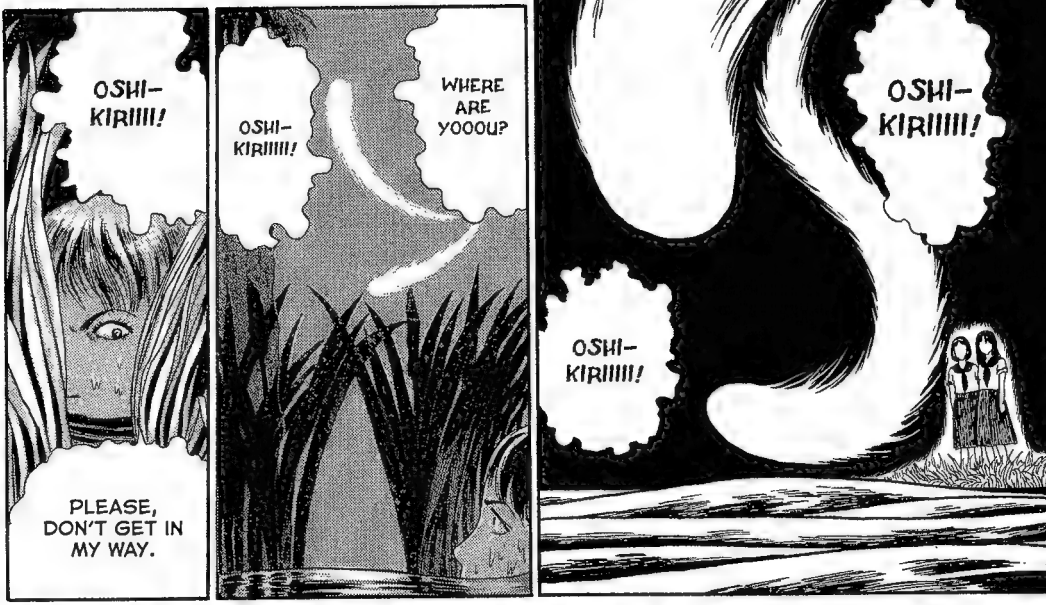

SO YOU'RE THE REASON THEY DIED...
SPLSH
WHAT?!
WE ASKED THE GUYS FROM THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE, BUT THEY DROWNED... THEY WERE NO GOOD.

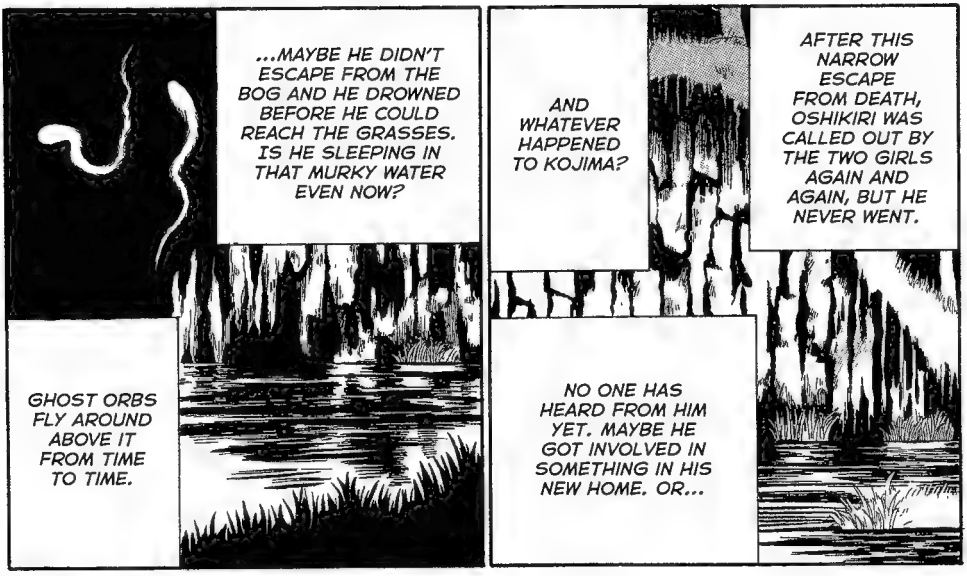

YOU... ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MINDS?!
SPLSH
YOU'LL DIVE TOO, UNTIL YOU FIND HIM.
YES. NO ONE CAN RESIST US.

KOJIMA'S NOT DEAD.
YOU'RE WRONG.
SPLSH
WAIT!
THAT DAY, HE SWAM AS HARD AS HE COULD ALONG THE BOTTOM OF THE BOG AND CAME OUT BEHIND THAT GRASS. AND THEN HE RAN.
HE JUST MADE IT LOOK LIKE HE DROWNED. SO NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU LOOK, YOU'LL NEVER FIND HIM.
WHAT?!
YOU'RE MAKING THIS UP!! OKAY THEN. DO YOU HAVE ANY REAL PROOF HE'S ALIVE?
I'M NOT! THEY DIDN'T FIND HIS BODY. THAT'S PROOF!
HE'S ALIVE. BE HAPPY!
YOU'RE LYING!

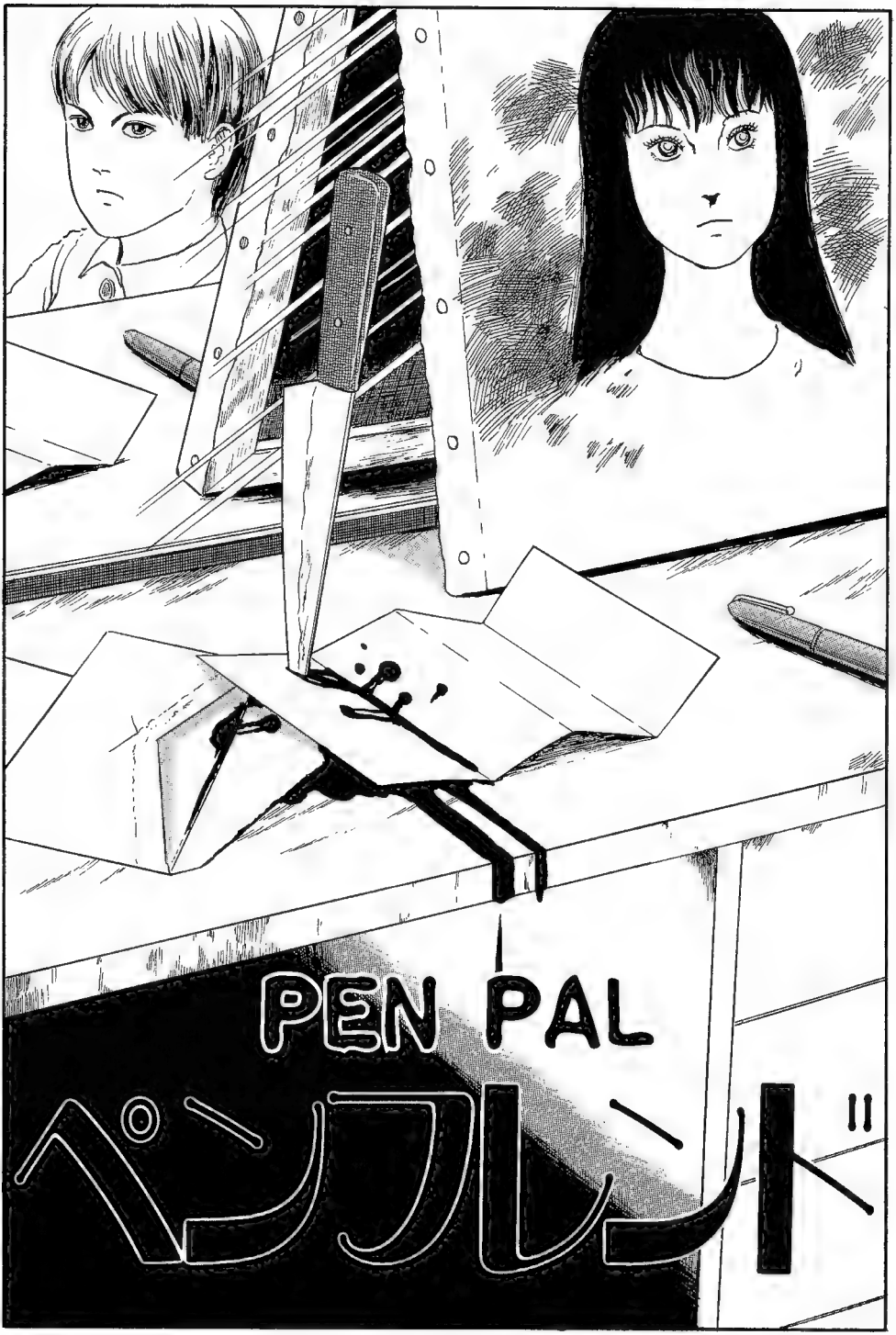
DID YOU SEE HIM COME UP FROM THE BOG AND RUN AWAY?
NO... BUT...
KOJIMA IS SLEEP-ING HERE.
WE ALWAYS KNOW WHERE HE IS.
THAT'S-- NO WAY.
THERE'S NO WAY HE DROWNED.
HE HATED YOU GUYS. HE WAS TRYING TO GET AWAY FROM YOU!
OSHI-KIRI!!
FWUM
WHOA!
AAH!

WHAT THE–?!
WHSH
BWAN
AH!
SPLSH
Listen, Oshikiri. Don't laugh. I was possessed by their living spirits.
Their "living spirits," you know?
These flaming balls of hatred shot up from their heads.
And what do you think happened then?




...MAYBE HE DIDN'T ESCAPE FROM THE BOG AND HE DROWNED BEFORE HE COULD REACH THE GRASSES. IS HE SLEEPING IN THAT MURKY WATER EVEN NOW?
GHOST ORBS FLY AROUND ABOVE IT FROM TIME TO TIME.
AND WHATEVER HAPPENED TO KOJIMA?
NO ONE HAS HEARD FROM HIM YET. MAYBE HE GOT INVOLVED IN SOMETHING IN HIS NEW HOME. OR...
AFTER THIS NARROW ESCAPE FROM DEATH, OSHIKIRI WAS CALLED OUT BY THE TWO GIRLS AGAIN AND AGAIN, BUT HE NEVER WENT.

BOG OF LIVING SPIRITS / END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II

HYOOOOO
SHOW YOUR-SELF!
TAK TAK TAK
COME OUT!
I KNOW YOU'RE HIDING IN HERE.
WHERE... WHERE ARE YOU...
HEH HEH HEH ...
TAK TAK TAK

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY HOUSE?!
YOU... WHO ARE YOU?!
TAK
TAK
TAK
AAAAH!
AAH!
I'M THE *REAL* TORU OSHIKIRI.

THE HOUSE IS SO BIG, IT WOULDN'T BE A SURPRISE IF SOMEONE HAD SNUCK IN.
THEY'RE SO REAL.
HONESTLY, I'M HAVING SUCH WEIRD DREAMS LATELY.
AND SOMETIMES, I SEE MY FACE IN THE MIRROR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, AND I GET SO SCARED.
MOM AND DAD ARE BOTH OVERSEAS FOR WORK.
I GUESS MY NERVES ARE SHOT LIVING AWAY FROM PEOPLE IN THIS HUGE HOUSE ALL BY MYSELF.
I'LL JUST HAVE TO GET A GIRLFRIEND TO COMFORT MY LONELY HEART.
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN OKAY BEING ALONE, BUT STILL, I GET SO DOWN SOMETIMES.
THERE IS A RIDICULOUS NUMBER OF COUPLES AT SCHOOL... BUT IS THERE ANYONE FOR A SHRIMP LIKE ME?

I THOUGHT MY NECK WAS COLD.
OH! DAMMIT. I FORGOT MY SCARF IN CLASS.
AFTER SCHOOL
ART ROOM
I'M PRETTY SURE THAT'S SATOMI FROM CLASS E.
SHE'S THERE AGAIN. SHE'S ALWAYS PAINTING BY HERSELF AFTER SCHOOL.
SHE'S ALWAYS ALONE.

DOES THAT MEAN SHE'S LONELY?
A LONELY BEAUTY... MAYBE THIS COULD WORK OUT.
GRAK
GRAK
YOU'RE GOOD. IT LOOKS LIKE YOU. SELF-PORTRAIT, RIGHT?

WHAT— YOU DON'T HAVE TO STOP. KEEP GOING.
FSH
YOU'RE SATOMI FROM CLASS E, RIGHT? I'M OSHIKIRI.
SHKSHK
YES, I HAVE FRIENDS.
YOU ALWAYS LIKE THIS? YOU HAVE FRIENDS, RIGHT?
YOU DON'T TALK MUCH, HUH?

WELL, I GUESS NOT...
IS IT ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS?
BUT I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY SEEN YOU WITH ANYONE ELSE.
BANG
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME.
I HAVE FRIENDS I CORRESPOND WITH. THREE OF THEM.
NOT SURE WHY I HAVE TO TELL YOU ANY OF THIS, THOUGH.
THEY'RE SO GREAT THAT I CAN'T BE BOTHERED TO HANG OUT WITH PEOPLE AT SCHOOL.
THEY'RE GREAT FRIENDS. WE LIKE THE SAME THINGS. THEY GET ME.
KLAK
SO I GUESS WE CAN'T BE FRIENDS THEN?

PLUS, YOU WON'T LOOK TOO COOL WALKING AROUND WITH ME, YOU KNOW?
HOW CAN I KNOW THAT UNLESS I HANG OUT WITH YOU?
I'M BORING TO TALK TO AND ALL...
PROBABLY NOT. I'M NO FUN TO HANG OUT WITH, ANYWAY.
...YOU WOULDN'T LOOK TOO COOL, EITHER, I GUESS.
WITH A SHORT GUY LIKE ME...
SORRY TO BUG YOU.
OH... IS THAT IT...?
WHAT ?!

SATOMI
HEE HEE HEE!
OH, YUKO ...
Yuko Iwasaki Sapporo, Hokkaido
Miss Kazuko Satomi
OKAY!
BETTER WRITE BACK!
NOW ALL FOUR OF US KNOW EACH OTHER.
OH! YUKO GOT IN TOUCH WITH CHIHARU...

MNCH MNCH
MELON
I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT.
THE OTHER DAY... I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT YOUR HEIGHT, YOU KNOW.
HEY. HAVEN'T SEE YOU IN A WHILE.
YOU'RE ALONE A LOT, TOO, HUH?

YEAH. THAT HAPPENS TO ME A LOT. PROBABLY BECAUSE I PUT MYSELF DOWN.
A LOT OF TIMES, WHEN YOU CRITICIZE YOURSELF, THE OTHER PERSON THINKS YOU'RE CRITICIZING THEM.
PEOPLE OFTEN MISUNDER-STAND ME...
I'LL SAY SOMETHING INNOCENT, AND IT GETS TAKEN THE WRONG WAY AND I END UP HURTING SOMEONE.
FIGHTING? WHY?
LIKE, RIGHT NOW... I'M FIGHTING WITH TWO OF THEM.
NUH-UH. NOT NECES-SARILY.
I GUESS YOU DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MISUNDER-STANDING IN LETTERS.
SO THEN I LOST IT TOO. NOW WE JUST YELL AT EACH OTHER.
THEY CURSED AT ME IN THE LETTERS.
AND IN THEIR ANSWER, THEY ASKED ME IF I WAS ACTUALLY LYING ABOUT NOT MAKING FRIENDS AT SCHOOL.
THEY'RE MAD. IT'S A TERRIBLE MISUNDER-STANDING.
I MET YOU THE OTHER DAY, RIGHT?
ART ROOM
I WROTE THEM ABOUT THAT.

WHAT IF YOU STOPPED WRITING THEM?
SATO-MI.
I JUST SENT HER A LETTER, SO NO ANSWER YET. MAYBE IT'LL COME TODAY.
THEY SOUND PRETTY MEAN. I MEAN, WHY SHOULDN'T YOU MAKE OTHER FRIENDS? WHAT'D THE OTHER ONE SAY?
AAH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
FWK FWK FWK
ARE YOU MAD AT ME?
PLAAAP
I'LL PAINT YOU NEXT.
HUH? ME?
OSHIKIRI, BE MY MODEL.
NO. I JUST PAINTED TOO MUCH IN HERE, AND NOW IT'S BORING. SO I WRECKED IT.
KRK
KRK

RIGHT THERE. THAT'S GOOD.
OKAY, LOOK TO THE SIDE.
NO ONE'S HOME AT MY PLACE. MY PARENTS ARE OVERSEAS.
SO WHEN WE'RE DONE WITH THIS TODAY...
...MAYBE I COULD COME HANG OUT AT YOUR HOUSE.
IS THAT A NO?
MY PARENTS ARE BOTH GONE FOR WORK TOO. ALTHOUGH JUST IN JAPAN.
WE'RE A LOT ALIKE, HUH?

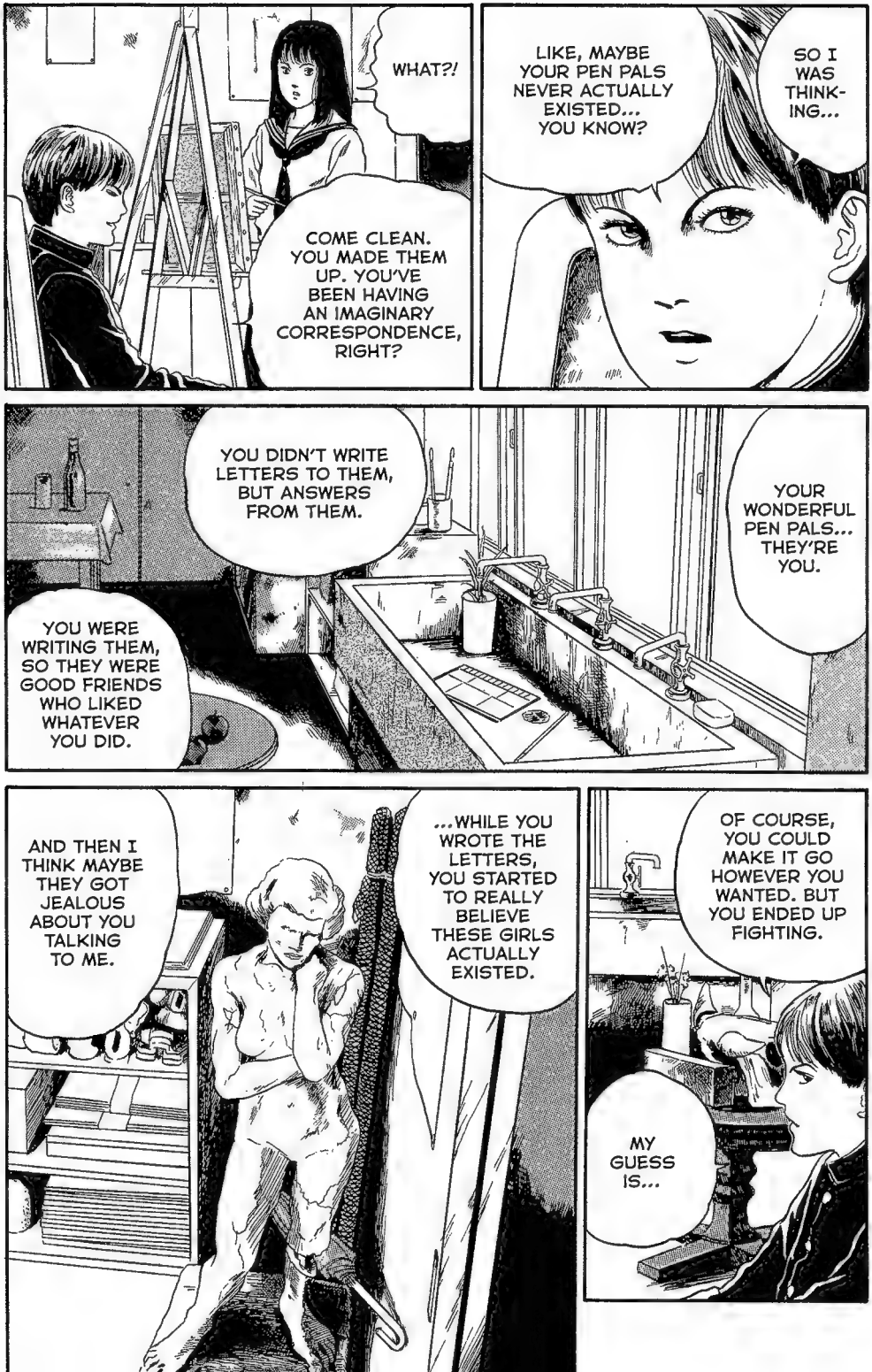
IS THIS YOUR HOUSE? IT'S NICE. TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM MINE.
WE'VE NEVER MET, SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE.
WHAT ARE YOUR FRIENDS LIKE? THE ONES YOU WRITE TO?
THEIR NAMES ARE YUKO, MIKI AND CHIHARU.
WHAT'D SHE SAY?
THAT'S THE LAST ONE, RIGHT?
HER ANSWER *DID* COME.
SO MEAN!

EVEN CHIHARU'S WRITING SUCH AWFUL THINGS...
SATOMI... WHAT IS *WITH* THESE PEOPLE? I MEAN, IT'S JUST...IT'S NOT NORMAL.
Idiot. Jerk. Stupid. Dummy.
I misjudged you, you traitor.
Go to hell. I'm not friends with
like you anymore.
PLEASE GO!
I CAN'T SIT HERE AND SAY NOTHING WHEN SHE'S WRITING STUFF LIKE THIS!
SATOMI ...
OSHIKIRI, SORRY, BUT COULD YOU GO? I HAVE TO WRITE CHIHARU BACK RIGHT NOW.

BUT I GUESS IT WASN'T REAL FRIENDSHIP.
OH!
HER FRIEND-SHIP WITH THESE THREE PEN PALS, HER REFUGE FROM LONELI-NESS.
SHE SUDDENLY LOST THIS IMPORTANT THING.
BANG
CRAP. I FORGOT MY SCARF AGAIN.
KHAM
AAH!

930
Toyama City
25-3
Miss Kazuko
Satomi
THK
SORRY, SATOMI.
THANKS!

ART
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
YOU'RE PRETTY QUIET TODAY.
...IT CAME YESTERDAY... ANOTHER MEAN LETTER.
OH, RIGHT. WHEN DO YOU THINK YOU'LL GET AN ANSWER TO THAT LETTER?
SHF SHF
I KNOW I SAW IT. DID YOU PUT IT IN THE POSTBOX? KINDA WEIRD TO WRITE LETTERS TO YOURSELF.
THAT DAY...THE ENVELOPE YOU DROPPED—IT WAS ADDRESSED TO YOU. THERE WAS NO POSTMARK ON IT, SO IT WASN'T ONE FROM A FRIEND. YOU WROTE IT.
YESTERDAY? THE ANSWER CAME YESTERDAY?
THAT'S REALLY FAST, HUH?


WHAT?!
COME CLEAN. YOU MADE THEM UP. YOU'VE BEEN HAVING AN IMAGINARY CORRESPONDENCE, RIGHT?
SO I WAS THINK-ING...
LIKE, MAYBE YOUR PEN PALS NEVER ACTUALLY EXISTED... YOU KNOW?
YOU DIDN'T WRITE LETTERS TO THEM, BUT ANSWERS FROM THEM.
YOUR WONDERFUL PEN PALS... THEY'RE YOU.
YOU WERE WRITING THEM, SO THEY WERE GOOD FRIENDS WHO LIKED WHATEVER YOU DID.
...WHILE YOU WROTE THE LETTERS, YOU STARTED TO REALLY BELIEVE THESE GIRLS ACTUALLY EXISTED.
AND THEN I THINK MAYBE THEY GOT JEALOUS ABOUT YOU TALKING TO ME.
OF COURSE, YOU COULD MAKE IT GO HOWEVER YOU WANTED. BUT YOU ENDED UP FIGHTING.
MY GUESS IS...

BUT WHEN YOU ACTUALLY GOT THE LETTERS IN THE POST, IT WAS A TERRIBLE SHOCK. IT DIDN'T MATTER THAT YOU'D WRITTEN THEM... AND YOU GOT ANGRY.
. Stupid. Dumm
dged you, you traito
nds with
YOU FELT BAD FOR THEM. YOU BLAMED YOURSELF, SO YOU HAD THEM WRITE LETTERS TAUNTING YOU.
DON'T PLAY DUMB. YOU HAD TO HAVE KNOWN.
YOU SAY THE WEIRDEST THINGS. THE LETTER WAS ADDRESSED TO ME? THERE'S NO WAY IT WOULD BE. MAYBE I WROTE MY ADDRESS BY ACCIDENT?
...BASICALLY, YOU WERE JUST CRITICIZING YOURSELF THROUGH THOSE LETTERS.
I KNOW I SOUND ALL SERIOUS LIKE A PSYCHOLOGIST, BUT...
KLAK
WELL... BUT THAT POINTLESS GAME IS OVER NOW.
STOP IT! SITTING THERE, TELLING ME YOUR RANDOM THEORIES! MY FRIENDS ARE MADE-UP?! EXCUSE ME?! THEY EXIST... THEY DEFINITELY EXIST.
YOU'RE NOT PART OF THIS. I DON'T NEED YOU TELLING ME ANYTHING.
THE PROOF OF THAT IS THAT SELF-PORTRAIT YOU WORKED SO HARD ON. YOU WRECKED IT. THAT WAS A FAREWELL TO YOUR FRIENDS.

WHAT THE...? AND SHE LEFT HER ART SUPPLIES.
I'M GOING HOME!
SHE STOPPED COMING TO SCHOOL THE NEXT DAY.
...SEND-ING LETTERS TO HER-SELF ...?
MAYBE SHE DOESN'T REALIZE THAT SHE'S...

BZZT
BZT BZZZT
KACHAK
OSHIKIRI.
HEY. HOW'VE YOU BEEN? I BROUGHT YOUR ART KIT. YOU LEFT IT BEFORE ...
GLANCE
SATOMI... ARE YOU SICK OR SOME-THING?
GLANCE
OSHI-KIRI... A LETTER'S COMING ...

YUKO'S COMING FROM HOKKAIDO, MIKI FROM TOKYO. AND CHIHARU FROM FUKUOKA. THEY'RE COMING HERE.
THEY'RE COMING TO KILL ME... FOR REAL...
THE FIGHT JUST KEEPS GETTING WORSE. I GET THREATENING LETTERS PRETTY MUCH EVERY DAY.
I...I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, SO I WROTE, "I'LL KILL YOU." AND THEN THEY ALL SAID THEY WERE GOING TO KILL *ME*.
AS IF I'D LET THEM KILL ME...
THEY'RE GOING TO MEET UP AND COME HERE TO-GETHER.
GIANZU
GIANZU
AAAAAH!

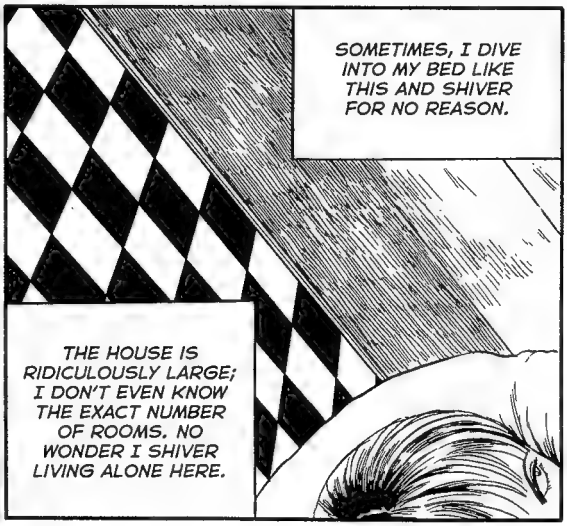
ALL THREE OF YOU! DON'T MOVE!
STAY BACK! I'LL STAB YOU.
IF YOU COME NEAR ME, I'LL STAB YOU.
I SAID, STAY AWAY FROM ME!
KSHK
MIKI...!
YUKO!
KSHK
STOP, CHIHARU!
S-SATOMI? WHAT'S WRONG? THERE'S NO ONE THERE.
AAAAAH!

THP THP THP
BW
SH
KSHK
KSHK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! STOP! STOP!!
AAAAAH!
THUD
KSHK

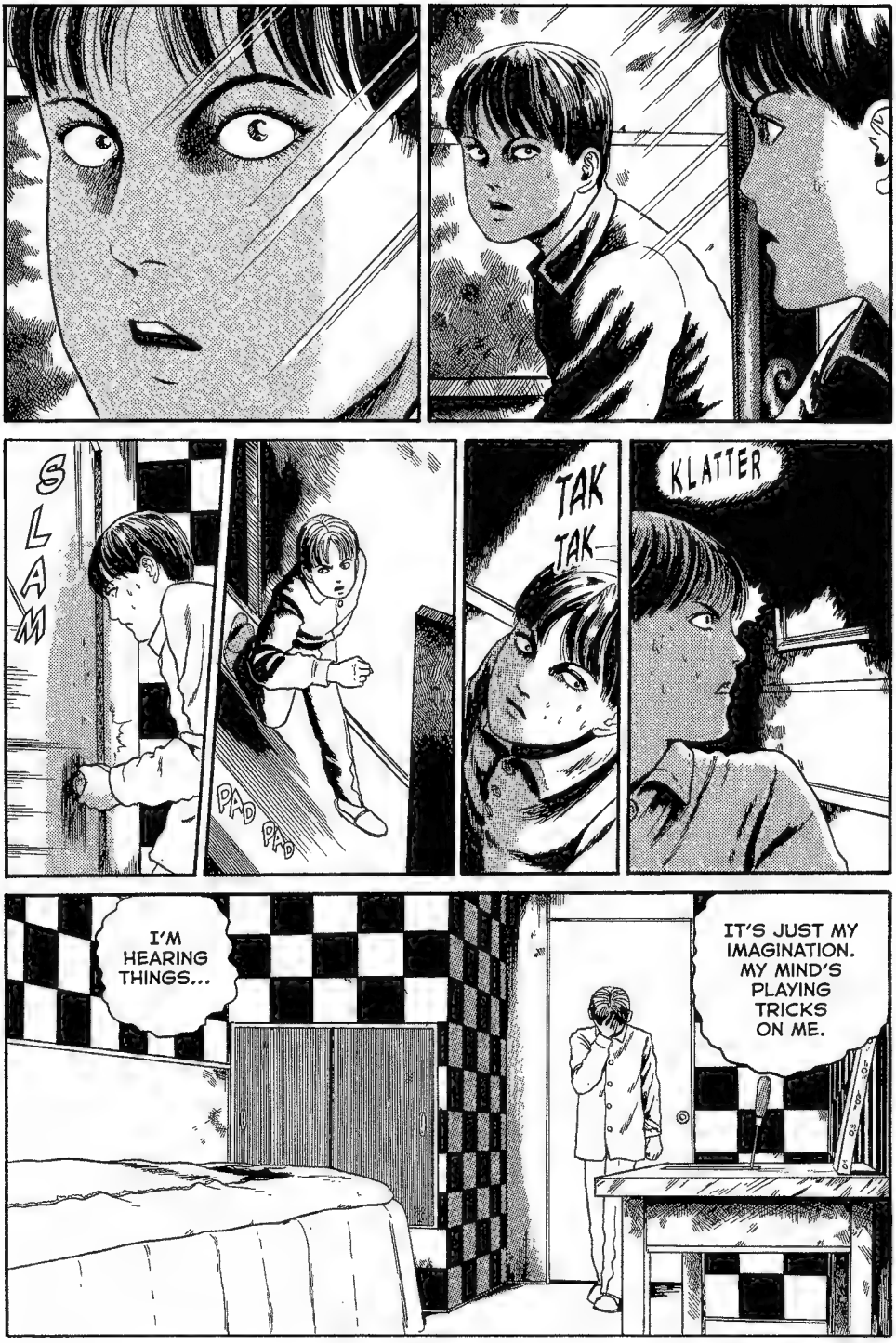
WHAT JUST HAP-PENED ?!
HUFF HUFF
SHE COMPLETELY BELIEVED IN THE EXISTENCE OF THE OTHER THREE! A DELUSION BROUGHT ABOUT BY HER LONELINESS... SHE WAS KILLED BY A DELUSION!
SHOULD I CALL THE POLICE?! NO. IF I'M NOT CAREFUL, I COULD END UP A SUSPECT...
THEY'LL THINK I STABBED HER... AND WHO WOULD VOUCH FOR ME?
BUT...NO ONE KNOWS I WENT TO HER HOUSE. THERE'S NO PROOF I WAS EVER THERE.

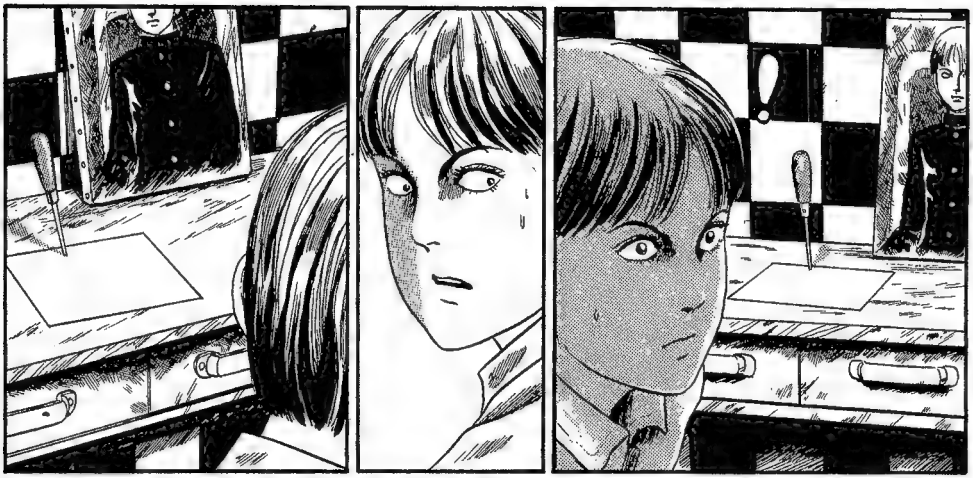
HYOOOO

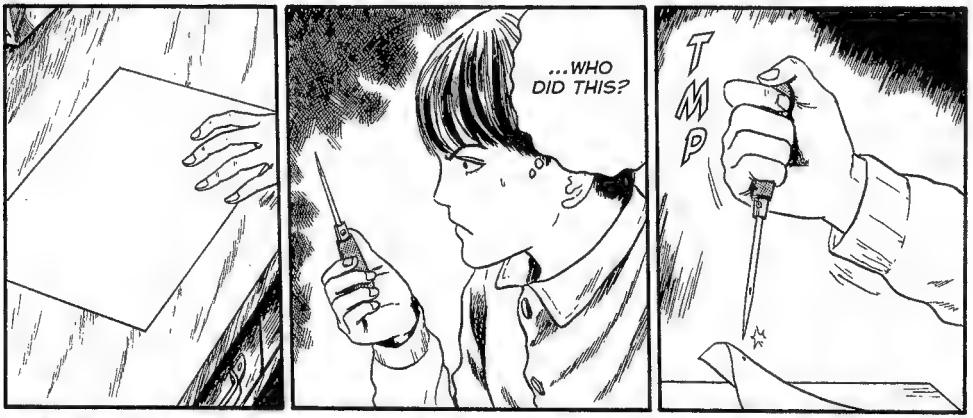
TAK TAK TAK
AH!


SOMETIMES, I DIVE INTO MY BED LIKE THIS AND SHIVER FOR NO REASON.
THE HOUSE IS RIDICULOUSLY LARGE; I DON'T EVEN KNOW THE EXACT NUMBER OF ROOMS. NO WONDER I SHIVER LIVING ALONE HERE.

KREE
TAK
TAK
WHO'S THERE ?!
I'M SURE... I HEARD FOOTSTEPS...
KLATTER


SLAM
PAD PAD
TAK TAK
KLATTER
I'M HEARING THINGS...
IT'S JUST MY IMAGINATION. MY MIND'S PLAYING TRICKS ON ME.




...WHO DID THIS?
TMP

Murderer! You stabbed Kazuko Satomi over and over and killed her! I know. You left proof. Isn't your neck cold?
Your friend, T.O.

...MY SCARF ...
PROOF ...
WHAT... THIS FRIEND T.O.? PROOF ...?!
Murderer! You
Kazuko Satomi o
and killed her! I
proof. Isn't yo
Your f
...
WHO COULD HAVE...
THIS...IS MY HAND-WRITING...

PEN PAL / END

INTRUDER
侵入者

TAK... TAK...
YOU CAN HEAR THEM, RIGHT, TAKAYUKI? THE FOOT-STEPS...
YEAH... I CAN.
TAK TAK TAK
WHEN EXACTLY DID I START HEARING THOSE FOOTSTEPS?
SOME HOMELESS GUY PROBABLY SNUCK IN.
COME ON, TORU. WE'LL FIND HIM AND CHASE HIM OUT.

FOOT-STEPS, BUT NO FEET, HUH?
I THINK SO... THIS PLACE IS SO BIG, I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW MANY THERE ARE.
IS THIS ALL THE ROOMS IN THE HOUSE?
TAK
TAK
TAK
TORU... ARE YOU OKAY? YOU USED TO BE A LOT MORE CHEERFUL. LIVING ALL ALONE IN THIS BIG HOUSE IS MAYBE MESSING WITH YOUR HEAD.
I DON'T THINK THEY'RE BAD, I JUST HATE THEM FOR SOME REASON.
TAKAYUKI, YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE THE POLICE.
SHOULD WE CALL THE POLICE?
FIRST I'VE HEARD. WHY NOT?
I'M OKAY ...
YOUR PARENTS WON'T BE BACK FROM OVER-SEAS FOR A WHILE STILL.
COME STAY WITH US. YOU'RE FAMILY. YOU DON'T NEED TO STAND ON CER-EMONY.

The Seven Wonders of the World
THE NEXT DAY
HE'S CUTE, THOUGH. REALLY BOYISH.
GUYS LIKE THAT ARE ALWAYS UP TO SOMETHING.
HE'S SO GLOOMY. AND QUIET.
IT'S OSHIKIRI. THAT GUY'S, LIKE, ALWAYS BY HIMSELF.
SO, LIKE...
The Seven Wonders of the World
...

YEAH. I CAN'T SEE THEM, BUT...
A PRES-ENCE?
...LATELY, I'VE HAD THIS STRANGE FEELING. I DUNNO. IT'S LIKE A PRESENCE.
UH-HUH.
...I FEEL THE PRESENCE OF SOMEONE NOT IN THIS WORLD...
SOMEONE FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION.
IT'S LIKE... SOMETHING SEPARATE FROM THIS WORLD.
NO...IT'S NOT A GHOST.
SO, LIKE, A GHOST?
The Seven Wonders of the World

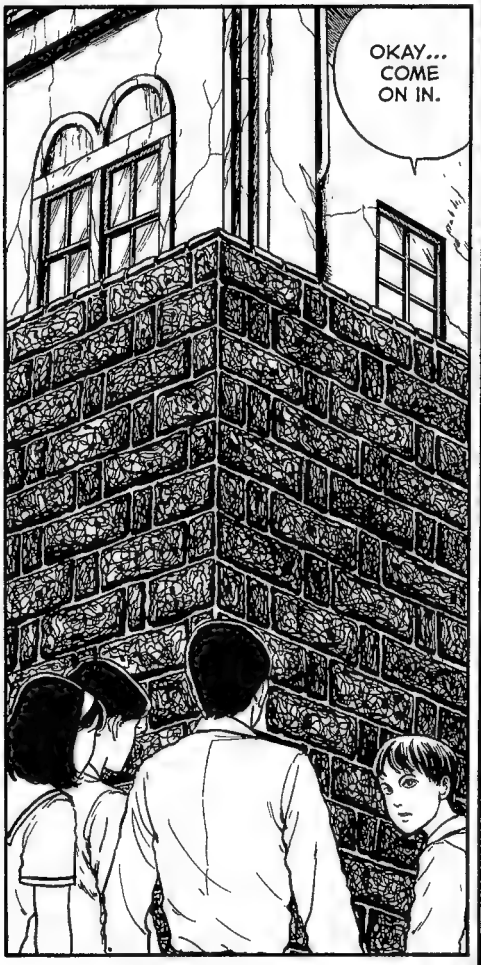
I'VE NEVER HAD THIS SENSATION BEFORE. AND I DON'T KNOW WHY IT FEELS THIS WAY.
THAT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN EXPLAIN IT.
ANOTHER DIMEN-SION?!
IT'S CALLED THE *SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD*. I'LL GO GET IT.
I READ THIS BOOK THAT HAD A LOT ABOUT THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE.
OKAY.
ANOTHER DIMENSION? YOU MEAN LIKE THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE?
YEAH. EXACTLY.
OH, THIS IS IT.
HUH?

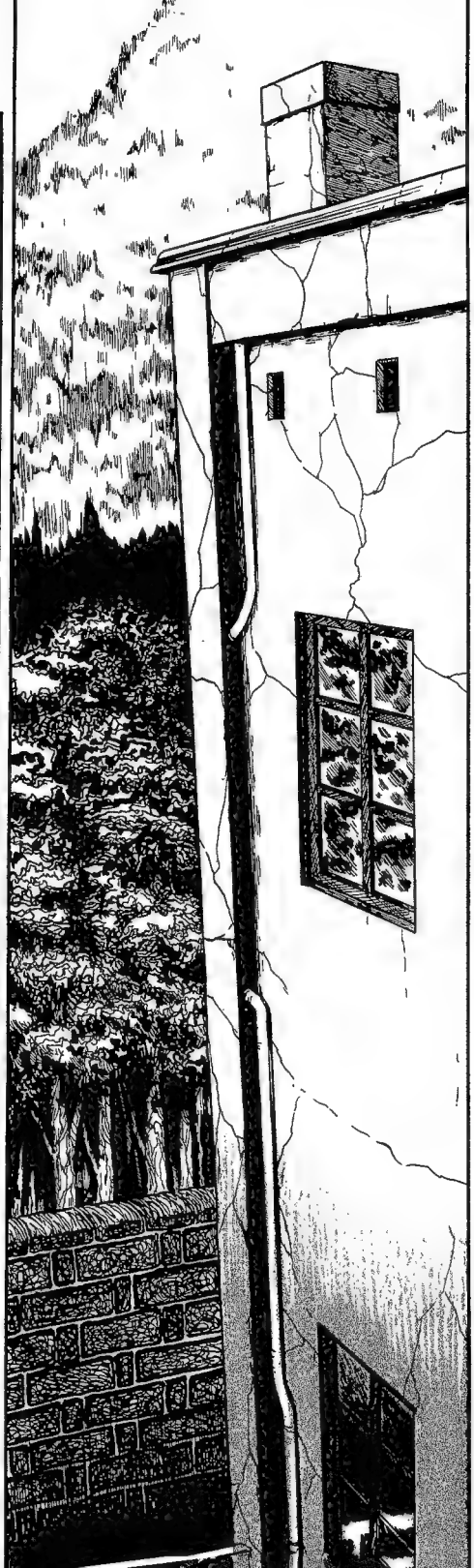
OH!
UMM, THE CHAPTER ON THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE ...
FLIP
FLIP
I LOVE BOOKS LIKE THIS.
LET ME SEE.
HEY, THANKS.
NO... IT'S FINE. IT'S NOT LIKE I CHECKED IT OUT. YOU CAN HAVE IT IF YOU NEED IT.
I WAS SO FOCUSED.
SORRY! YOU WERE READING THIS. I DIDN'T REALIZE.
HUH. I DON'T REALLY GET IT...BUT I'M INTERESTED.
ALTER-NATE DIMEN-SIONS?
YOU ARE? THEN WE CAN TALK.
ABOUT ALTER-NATE DIMEN-SIONS.
HOW ABOUT YOU READ IT WITH US? I'D LOVE TO GET YOUR OPINION TOO.
The Seven Wonders of the World

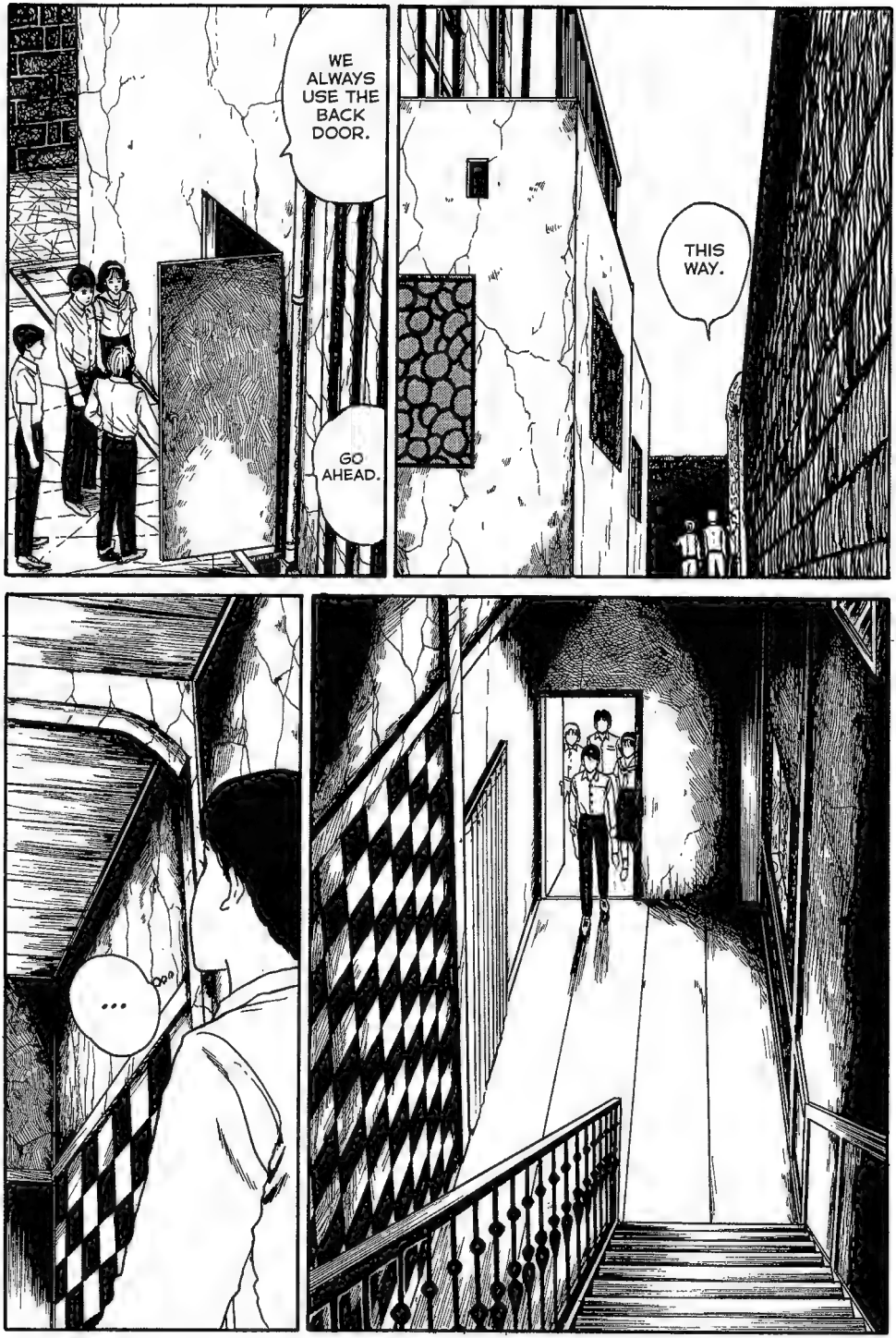
I'M WATA-NABE.
I'M KOIZUMI FROM CLASS E. NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'M KAMI-YAMA. YOU?
HUH?
NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'M OSHIKIRI. CLASS C...
AGREED!
OKAY! HOW ABOUT THE FOUR OF US GO INTO TOWN AND GET SOME FAST FOOD WHILE WE INVESTIGATE ALTERNATE DIMENSIONS?
HURRY UP, OSHI-KIRI!
WEIRD KIDS...
WHAT'S WITH THEM?
YOU DON'T HAVE CRAM SCHOOL TODAY, RIGHT, OSHIKIRI?
OH... NO...
IT'S SETTLED THEN! LET'S GO!

THEIR CONVERSATION MOSTLY REVOLVED AROUND SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENA.
LOOK. I TOOK THIS PICTURE.
THEY WERE WEIRD, BUT IT WAS FUN TALKING WITH THEM.
AFTER THAT STRANGE START, WE STARTED HANGING OUT.
IT MIGHT BE A GHOST. THIS IS AMAZING!
YOU CAN'T SEE ANYONE... THE FOOTSTEPS ALONE ECHO...
I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT THAT STUFF, BUT WHEN I TOLD THEM ABOUT THE FOOTSTEPS IN MY HOUSE THAT HAD BEEN BOTHERING ME LATELY, THEY WERE ALL VERY INTERESTED.
YES!
I'D LOVE TO HEAR THE FOOTSTEPS! HOW ABOUT WE ALL GO TO OSHIKIRI'S HOUSE?!
OSHIKIRI! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US SOONER?!

IT'S LIKE A WESTERN CASTLE...
IT'S IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, HUH?


OKAY... COME ON IN.




WE ALWAYS USE THE BACK DOOR.
GO AHEAD.
THIS WAY.
...

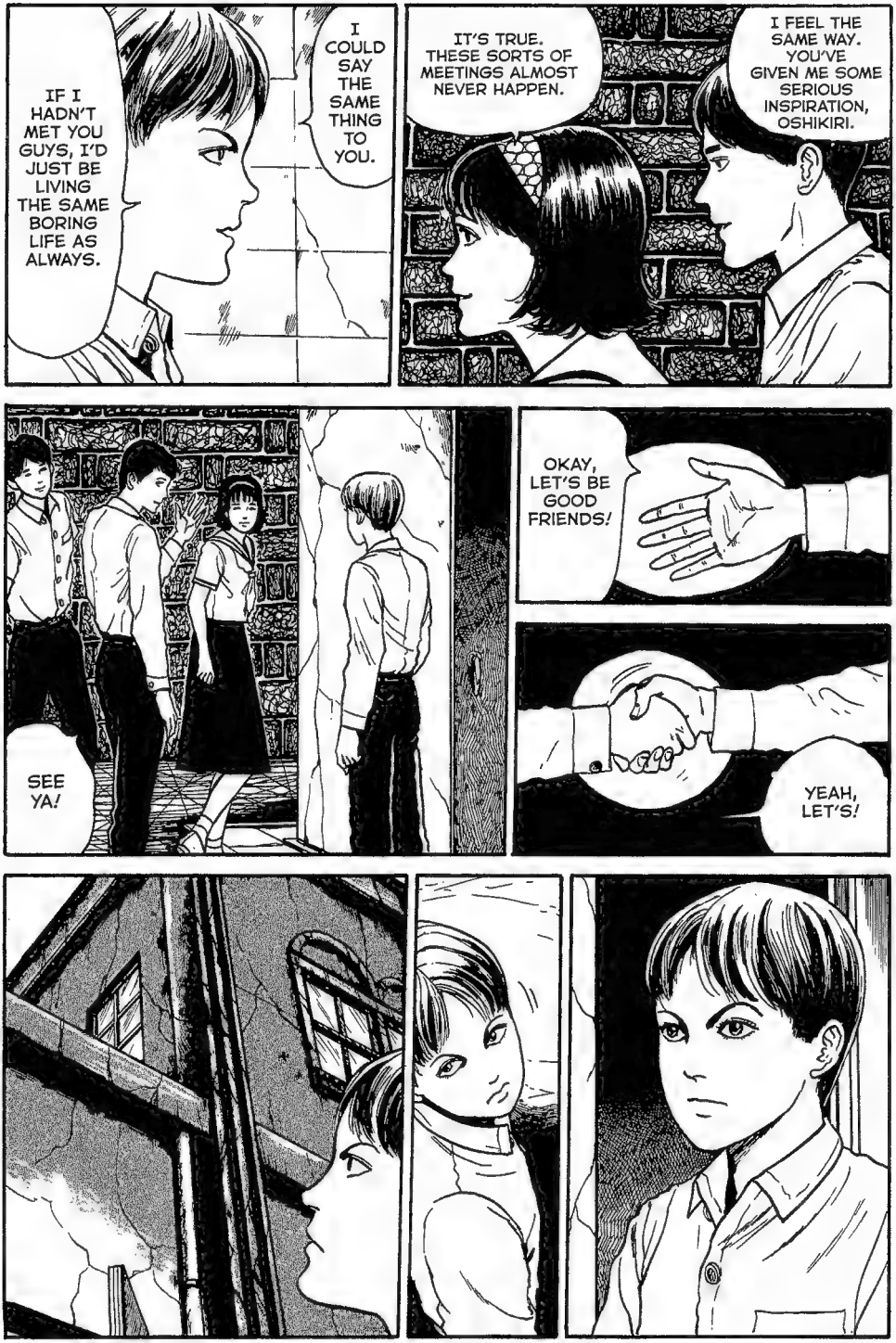
KREE
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
THIS IS BASI-CALLY ALL WE HAVE.
YEAH.
DO YOU REALLY LIVE ALONE HERE?
OSHIKIRI.

I SENSE SOMETHING INCREDIBLY FOREIGN. THIS HOUSE... DO YOU GUYS FEEL IT?
HUH...
ME, TOO.
RIGHT... IT'S GIVING ME THIS KIND OF UNEASY FEELING.
IT HAPPENS AT NIGHT A LOT. BUT I SOMETIMES HEAR THEM DURING THE DAY TOO.
OH. RIGHT.
SO AROUND WHAT TIME DO YOU HEAR THE FOOTSTEPS?
...!

YOU GUYS, IT'S LATE. MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO HOME?
YOU CAN HEAR THE FOOT-STEPS NEXT TIME.
OSHI-KIRI.
THIS HOUSE... THERE'S AN ALTERNATE DIMENSIONAL PRESENCE...
WHAT ?!

I CAN TELL. IT'S A RESIDENT OF AN ALTERNATE DIMENSION. BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER FELT IT SO STRONGLY.
AN ALTER-NATE DIMEN-SION?
THEN THAT MEANS THIS HOUSE HAS A HOLE SOME-WHERE LEADING TO ANOTHER DIMENSION?
OSHIKIRI. IS THERE SOMEPLACE THAT SPRINGS TO MIND?
IT'S A LIKELY POSSIBIL-ITY.
KAMI-YAMA.
I'M SURE THE FOOT-STEPS ARE AN INTRUDER FROM ANOTHER WORLD.
I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE IT'S JUST LIKE OUR WORLD.
OR MAYBE TOTALLY DIFFERENT CREATURES LIVE IN IT.
HEY? WHAT KIND OF WORLD IS THIS ALTERNATE DIMEN-SION?
HMM. I HEAR THE FOOTSTEPS FROM ALL KINDS OF PLACES...
I CAN'T THINK OF WHERE THERE'D BE A DOOR TO ANOTHER DIMEN-SION.

WE'RE REALLY EXCITED. WE DIDN'T GET TO HEAR THE FOOTSTEPS, BUT FOR THE TIME BEING, THE FOCUS OF OUR INTEREST IS THIS HOUSE.
AH, IT REALLY IS AMAZING.
SURE.
OSHIKIRI, WE'LL BE BACK.
NEXT TIME, WE'LL FIND OUT THE TRUE NATURE OF THE ALTERNATE DIMENSION.
I'M COMPLETELY OVER-WHELMED.
KOIZUMI AND WATANABE SHARE MY INTEREST. IT'S REALLY FORTUNATE WE MET YOU, OSHIKIRI.
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENA. APPARENTLY, I'M MORE SENSITIVE THAN MOST PEOPLE TO MYSTERIOUS THINGS.
BUT I'VE ACTUALLY NEVER SEEN THEM CLEARLY WITH THESE EYES. I THINK THIS IS MY CHANCE.

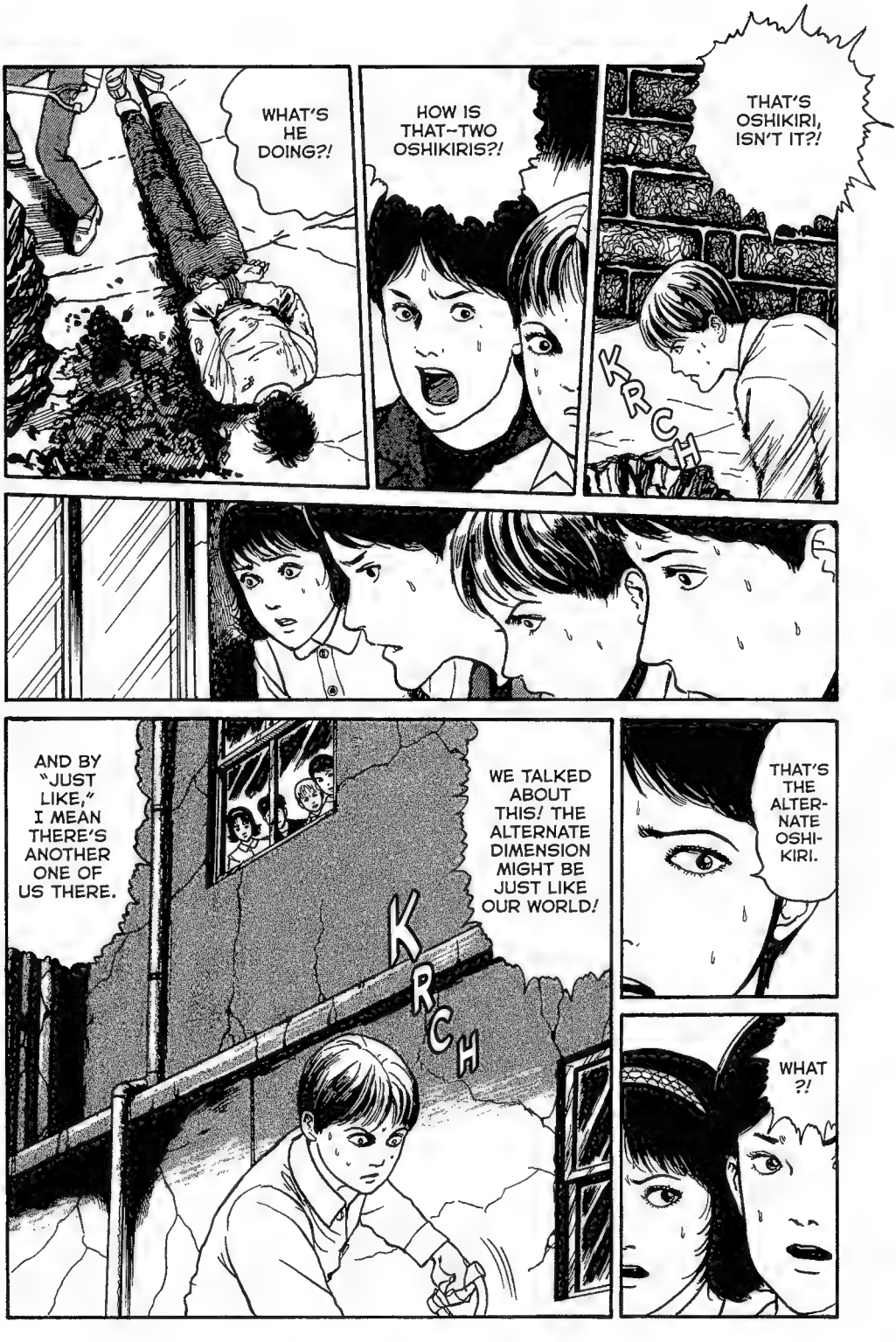

IF I HADN'T MET YOU GUYS, I'D JUST BE LIVING THE SAME BORING LIFE AS ALWAYS.
I COULD SAY THE SAME THING TO YOU.
IT'S TRUE. THESE SORTS OF MEETINGS ALMOST NEVER HAPPEN.
I FEEL THE SAME WAY. YOU'VE GIVEN ME SOME SERIOUS INSPIRATION, OSHIKIRI.
SEE YA!
OKAY, LET'S BE GOOD FRIENDS!
YEAH, LET'S!

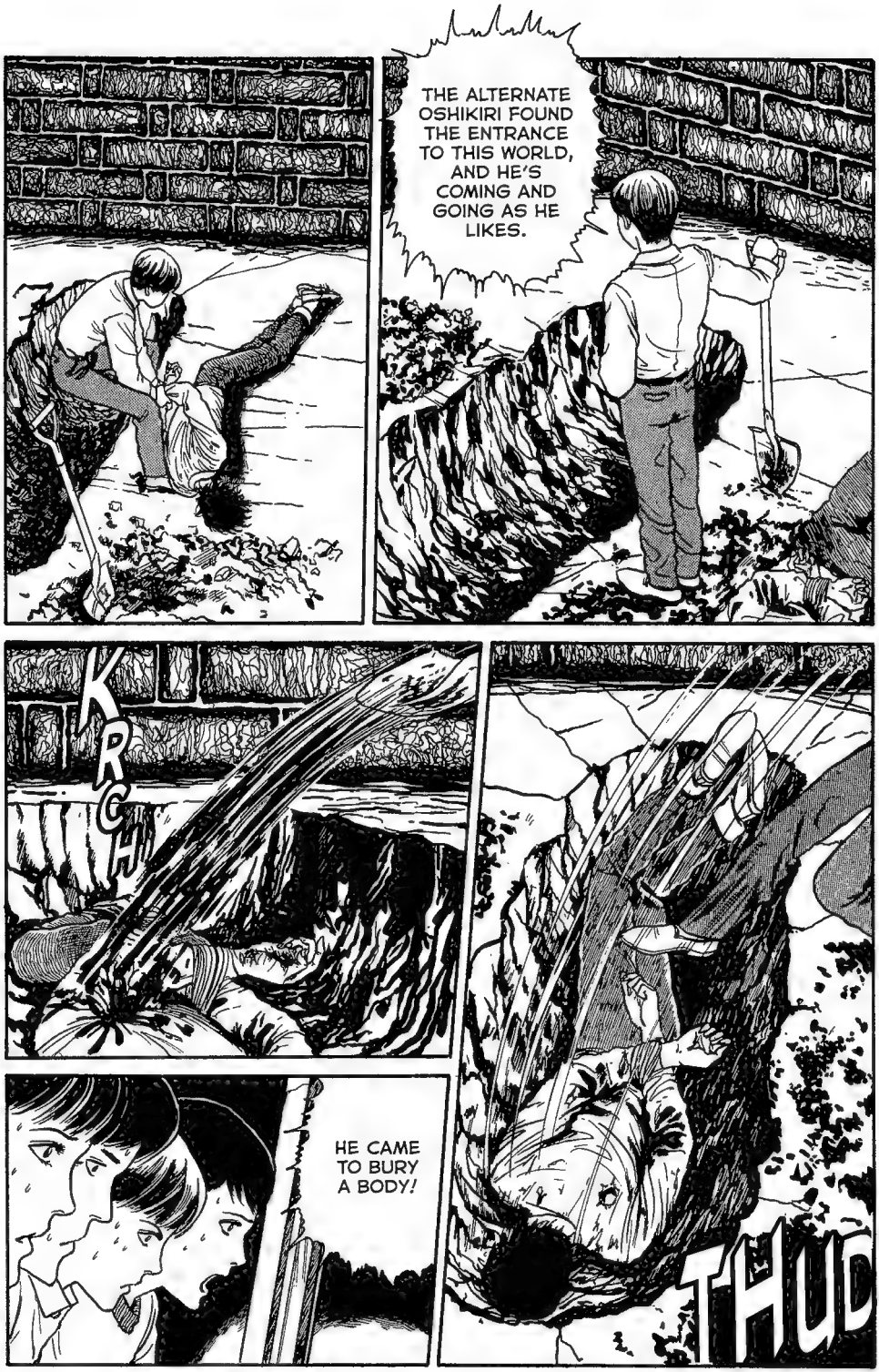
IT MIGHT LOOK LIKE A REGULAR ROOM, BUT THE INSTANT YOU STEP THROUGH THE DOOR, YOU'RE IN THE ALTERNATE DIMENSION.
SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
AT ANY RATE, WE'LL INVESTIGATE ALL THE ROOMS. THE ENTRANCE MIGHT BE JUST SITTING THERE.
MEAN-ING?
LIBRARY
THE NEXT DAY, WE TALKED EXCITEDLY ABOUT THIS OTHER DIMENSION.
IS THAT ALL THE ROOMS THEN?
NONE OF THE ROOMS ARE IT... SOMETHING'S NOT CLICKING. I STILL HAVE THAT FEELING.
SO, KAMI-YAMA?

I WON'T. I ALREADY TOLD MY PARENTS I WAS STAYING OVER AT A FRIEND'S TONIGHT.
WHAT? WATANABE, YOU SHOULD GO HOME.
WE'LL SLEEP OVER TONIGHT AND WAIT FOR THE FOOT-STEPS.
I GUESS WE JUST HAVE TO WAIT TO HEAR THE FOOTSTEPS, AFTER ALL.
TAK TAK
THERE IT IS FINAL-LY.
KREE
TAK TAKTAK
TAK
TAK
WHERE'S IT COMING FROM?
TAK TAK TAK

KRUU SHAA
DOWN-STAIRS!
OUTSIDE! IT WENT OUTSIDE!
OSHIKIRI, WHAT WAS THAT NOISE ?!
SO THEN DOWN AGAIN!
DASH DASH
WAIT! LOOK AT THIS!
AH!

KRCH
KRCH
AH!
WHAT ?!
KRCH
THAT'S-
KRNCH


WHAT'S HE DOING?!
HOW IS THAT--TWO OSHIKIRIS?!
THAT'S OSHIKIRI, ISN'T IT?!
KRCH
AND BY "JUST LIKE," I MEAN THERE'S ANOTHER ONE OF US THERE.
WE TALKED ABOUT THIS! THE ALTERNATE DIMENSION MIGHT BE JUST LIKE OUR WORLD!
KRCH
THAT'S THE ALTER-NATE OSHI-KIRI.
WHAT ?!


THE ALTERNATE OSHIKIRI FOUND THE ENTRANCE TO THIS WORLD, AND HE'S COMING AND GOING AS HE LIKES.
KRCH
HE CAME TO BURY A BODY!
THUD

THAT'S RIDICULOUS.
IMPRESSIVE. NO ONE WILL FIND IT IN ANOTHER WORLD.
ALTERNATE OSHIKIRI KILLED SOMEONE IN THE OTHER WORLD. AND HE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO GET RID OF THE BODY, SO HE CAME TO BURY IT HERE.
HEY! YOU! STOP IT!
THIS IS MY HOUSE!
KRCH
DAM-MIT!
AH! STOP, OSHI-KIRI!
KLAK

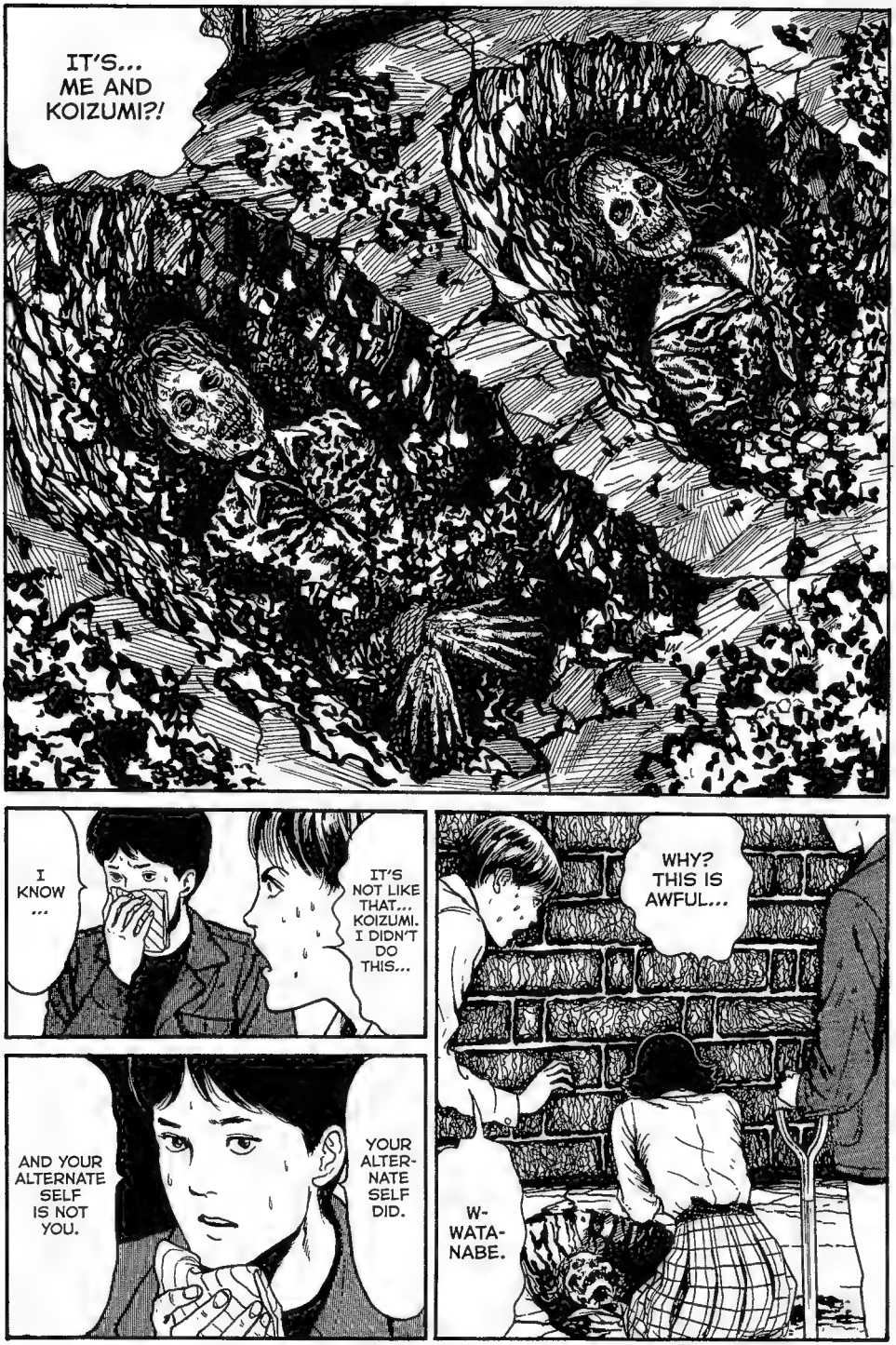
HEH.
HEH HEH HEH.
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
WHAT–
HA HA HA HA!
HA HA HA HA!
HA HA HA HA!

AH!
HA HA HA HA!
W-WHICH MEANS THIS IS THE DOOR?!
BUT... THERE'S NOTHING.
HE DISAPPEARED...
WE DEFINITELY SAW HIM... HE VANISHED RIGHT HERE.
HE PROBABLY HAS THE POWER TO COME AND GO FROM ANYWHERE.
MAYBE JUST INSIDE THIS HOUSE, THOUGH.

OSHI-KIRI... I'M SHOCK-ED, TOO.
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, THOUGH.
BUT... IT'S SHOCK-ING.
TO BE HONEST, I'M SUPER EXCITED RIGHT NOW. I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE SO CLEARLY BEFORE.
IN FACT, YOU'RE LUCKY TO HAVE WITNESSED THIS SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENON.
THAT WAS AT MOST AN ALTERNATE YOU. JUST BECAUSE HE KILLED SOMEONE DOESN'T MAKE YOUR OWN CHARACTER SUSPECT.
THAT'S RIGHT.
HUH?
COME TAKE A LOOK AT THIS...
HEY...
ALL THAT STUFF WITH LOCH NESS AND UFOS WAS SO FRUSTRATING.

WHAT ?!
IT'S YOU, KAMI-YAMA.
HOW COULD THIS...
TH-THAT'S...
BUT...WHAT *HAPPENED* IN THE ALTERNATE DIMENSION?
K-KAMI-YAMA.
IT'S OKAY. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
OSHIKIRI, CALM DOWN.

KRCH
KRCH
HEY! THE EARTH'S BEEN DUG UP OVER HERE, TOO. GIMME THAT SHOVEL.
WHAT ?!
KRCH
KRCH
IT CAN'T BE...
IT...


IT'S... ME AND KOIZUMI?!
I KNOW ...
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT... KOIZUMI. I DIDN'T DO THIS...
AND YOUR ALTERNATE SELF IS NOT YOU.
YOUR ALTER-NATE SELF DID.
W-WATA-NABE.
WHY? THIS IS AWFUL...

BUT IT TURNS OUT THE ALTERNATE YOU IS A MURDERER.

THEY *DO* LOOK LIKE US.
I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D END UP HERE WHEN WE INVESTIGATED THE ALTERNATE DIMENSION.

...ANYWAY, WE SHOULD REBURY THESE. DEEPER.
IT'S FOR OSHIKIRI'S SAKE, BUT IT'S ALSO...
...WHAT WE WANT.

KRCH
THEY HELPED ME, BUT THAT WAS THE LAST TIME WE HUNG OUT AS FRIENDS.
I REBURIED THE THREE BODIES DEEPER IN THE GROUND.
...UNLIKE BEFORE, I SENSE IN THE ECHO OF THOSE STEPS A MURDEROUS INTENT TOWARD ME. ALTHOUGH MAYBE IT'S ALL IN MY HEAD.
TAK TAK TAK TAK
THE INTRUDER STILL COMES NOW. BUT...
TAK TAK TAK TAK

INTRUDER / END

THE STRANGE TALE OF OSHIKIRI
押切異談

HAAH ...
HAAH...
IF HE FINDS ME, IT'S ALL OVER.
I HAVE TO...I HAVE TO GET OUT.
WHAT A TERRIFYING HOUSE.
AH!

AAAAH!
STOP!
GRAB
STOP!
HELP!
HEY!
DON'T DO ANYTHING TERRIBLE TO ME...
PLEASE, OSHIKIRI. PRETEND YOU NEVER SAW ME. LET ME GO HOME.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY HOUSE AT THIS HOUR?!
YOU'RE IN MY CLASS. MIO FUJII!
NO! LET GO!

AH!
HAA!
HAA!
AH! WAIT!
YANK
AH!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
...
SHE DISAP-PEARED...

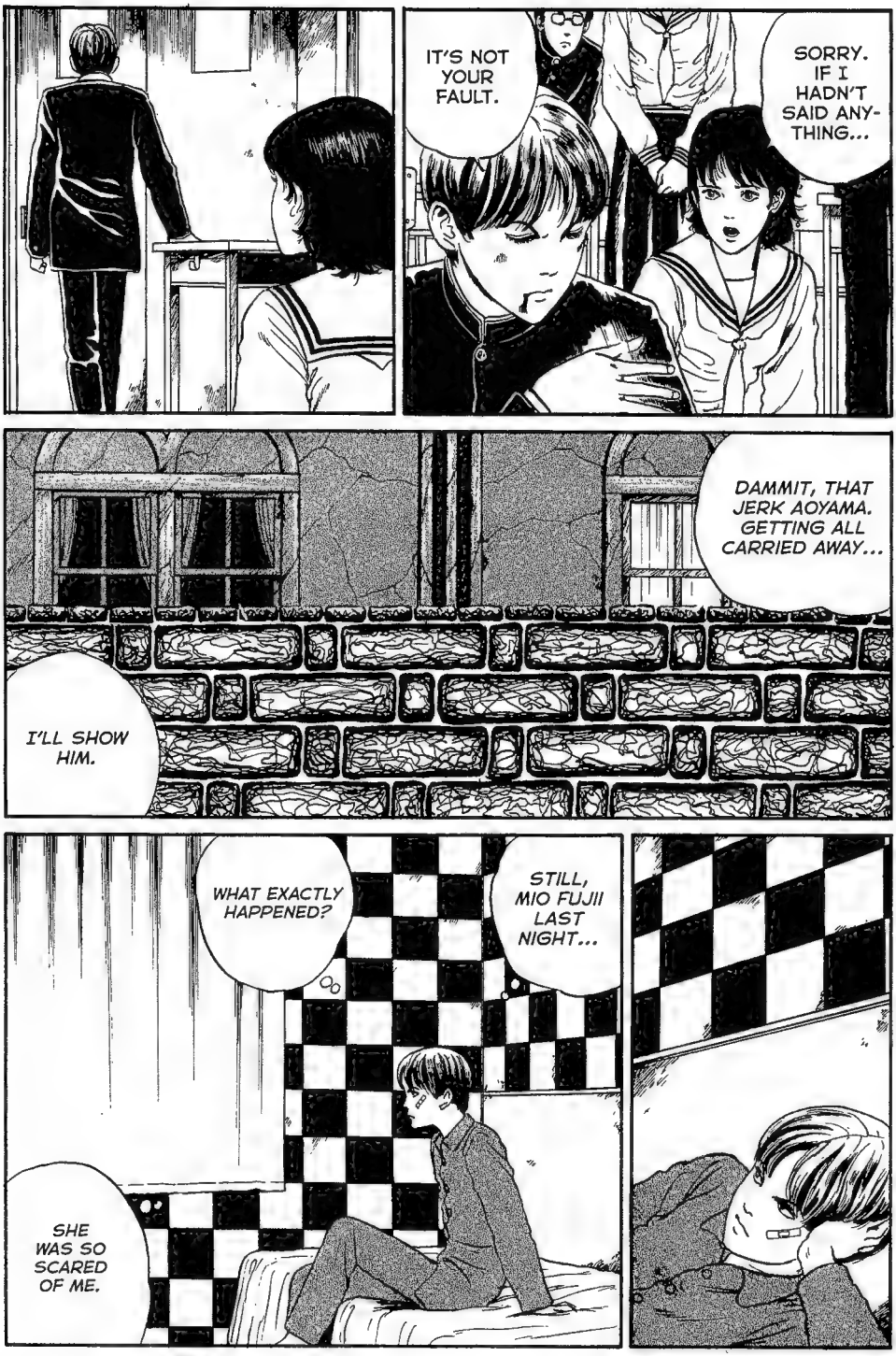
CHEERFUL AS USUAL. SHE'S A DIFFERENT PERSON FROM LAST NIGHT.
MIO FUJII... SHE'S STANDING THERE LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED.
...
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN FUJII FROM AN ALTER-NATE DIMEN-SION.
A DIFFERENT PERSON... RIGHT. THAT'S A DIFFERENT PERSON. THE PERSON I SAW LAST NIGHT WASN'T THE FUJII IN FRONT OF ME NOW.

THERE'S APPARENTLY A DOOR TO AN ALTERNATE DIMENSION IN MY HOUSE... AN ALTERNATE WORLD THAT'S EXACTLY THE SAME AS THIS ONE.
MAYBE SHE WAS FROM THAT WORLD...
SHE WANDERED INTO THIS WORLD AND MET ME FOR A BRIEF MOMENT...
...AND THEN RETURNED TO THE ALTERNATE DIMENSION.
HUH?
OSHI-KIRI?
BUT WHY DID SHE APPEAR IN MY HOUSE?
YOU NEED SOME-THING?
OH, FUJII.

YOU'VE BEEN STARING AT ME.
HUH?
SPEAKING OF NEEDING SOMETHING, DIDN'T YOU NEED SOMETHING FROM ME?
OH... THANKS.
YES, THE LOGBOOK. IT'S YOUR TURN TODAY.
GOOD LUCK WITH THE LOGBOOK.
HEE HEE. WELL, FINE.
LIAR. I SAW YOU.
I WASN'T, ACTUALLY.
OH, UH...
BUT YOU'D BEST GIVE UP ON HER. SHE'S TALL. AND YOU'RE A SHRIMP.
BUT THE SHY BOY CAN ONLY LOOK UPON HER FROM A DISTANCE.
OOH LA LA! OSHIKIRI, YOU MAYBE INTO FUJII?

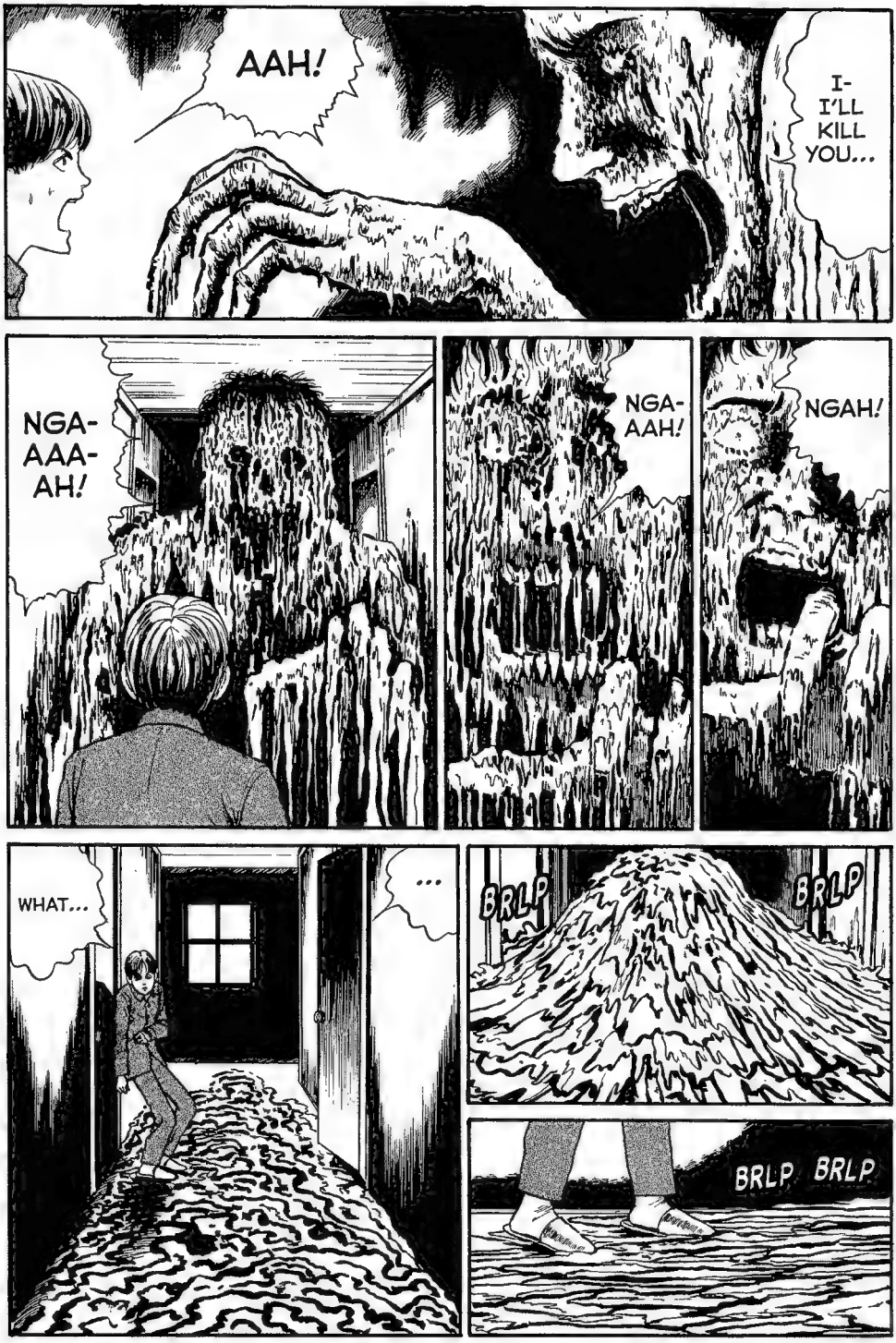
YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD WIDDLE WALKER.
IT'D LOOK LIKE A LITTLE KID HOLDING HIS MOMMY'S HAND.
HM, BABY?
YOU'D LOOK PATHETIC TOGETHER.
WHAT'D YOU SAY, YOU LITTLE BRAT?
JUST BE QUIET.
SHUT UP, AOYA-MA.
WHAT'S WRONG, BABY? ANSWER ME.
WHY DON'T YOU SAY SOMETHING, SHRIMP?
HM? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
FOR SUCH A SHRIMP.
YOU SURE GOT A BIG MOUTH TODAY.
MIDGET.
YEAH, SHRIMPIE.

WHAP
WHAP
WHAP
WHOA! FIGHT! FIGHT!
AAAH! STOP IT!
YOU WANNA GO?!
YOU DICK!
LEAP
WHAP
WHAP
ASSHOLE!
WHUD
HEH HEH HEH.
OSHIKIRI, ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH.
STOP IT!
HUH ?!
I SAID STOP!


IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
SORRY. IF I HADN'T SAID ANY-THING...
DAMMIT, THAT JERK AOYAMA. GETTING ALL CARRIED AWAY...
I'LL SHOW HIM.
WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED?
STILL, MIO FUJII LAST NIGHT...
SHE WAS SO SCARED OF ME.

OSHIKIRI! WHERE ARE YOU?! COME OUT!
W-WHAT? ...WHO'S THAT?
OSHI-KIRI!
OSHI-KIRI!
AH!
OSHI-KIRI!
NO ONE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COME IN...
I KNOW I LOCKED THE DOOR...
OSHI-KIRI!
KACHAK
HM. HOLD ON...
HIS VOICE IS SO LOUD, THOUGH.
DID HE COME TO PICK ANOTHER FIGHT?!
THAT'S AOYA-MA'S VOICE.
OSHI-KIRI!

A-A MON-STER!
GAH!
OSHI-KIRI!
OSHI-KIRI!


AAH!
I-
I'LL
KILL
YOU...
NGA-
AAA-
AH!
NGA-
AAH!
NGAH!
WHAT...
...
BRLP
BRLP
BRLP
BRLP

I DON'T GET IT.
BUT HE WAS AT SCHOOL TODAY.
OSHI-KIRI.
NO. THAT STUFF FROM THE MONSTER MELTING IS STILL THERE.
WAS I HALLUCI-NATING ...?
AND I'M PRETTY SURE THAT WAS AOYAMA. A GIANT AOYAMA...
MIO FUJII WAS FRIENDLY WITH ME AFTER THAT.
OH. SURE.
YOU WANT TO WALK HOME TOGETHER?
BUT THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING.
IT'S NOT AS BIG AS A CASTLE.
HUH?
I HEARD IT'S LIKE A WESTERN CASTLE. IS THAT TRUE?
HEY? SO, LIKE, YOUR HOUSE?

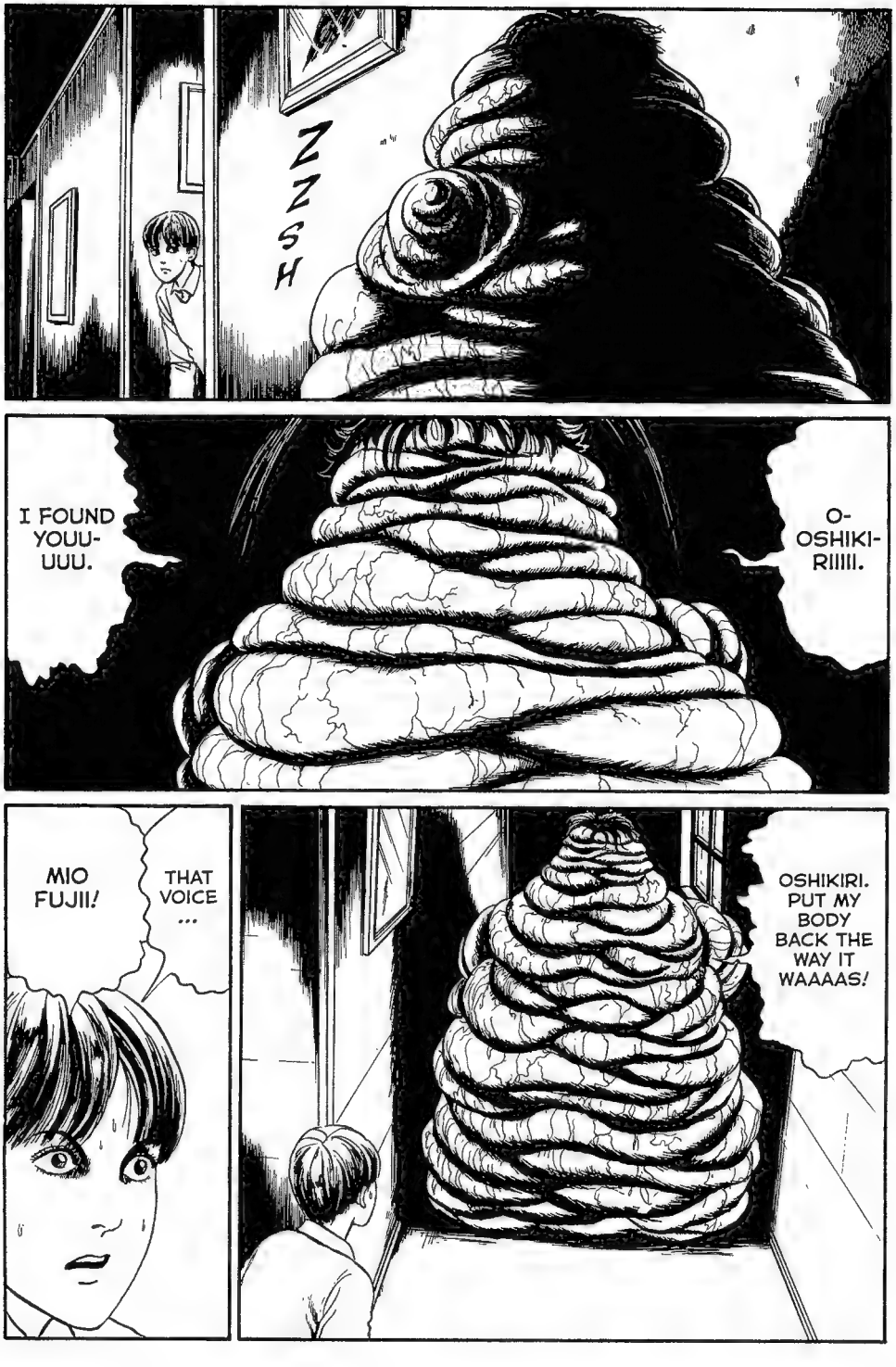
I'VE ALWAYS LIKED PLACES LIKE THAT. I'D LOVE TO SEE IT...
CAN I COME OVER?
HUH?!
WHAT? WHY NOT?
YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T.
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T ASK, EITHER.
I GET IT. YOU'RE EMBAR-RASSED.
THAT'S NOT IT.
YOU'RE ALWAYS ALONE, OSHI-KIRI. YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS, RIGHT?
THAT'S NOT GREAT. YOU HAVE TO MAKE FRIENDS WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG.
OR ELSE YOU'LL TURN INTO A WEIRD ADULT.

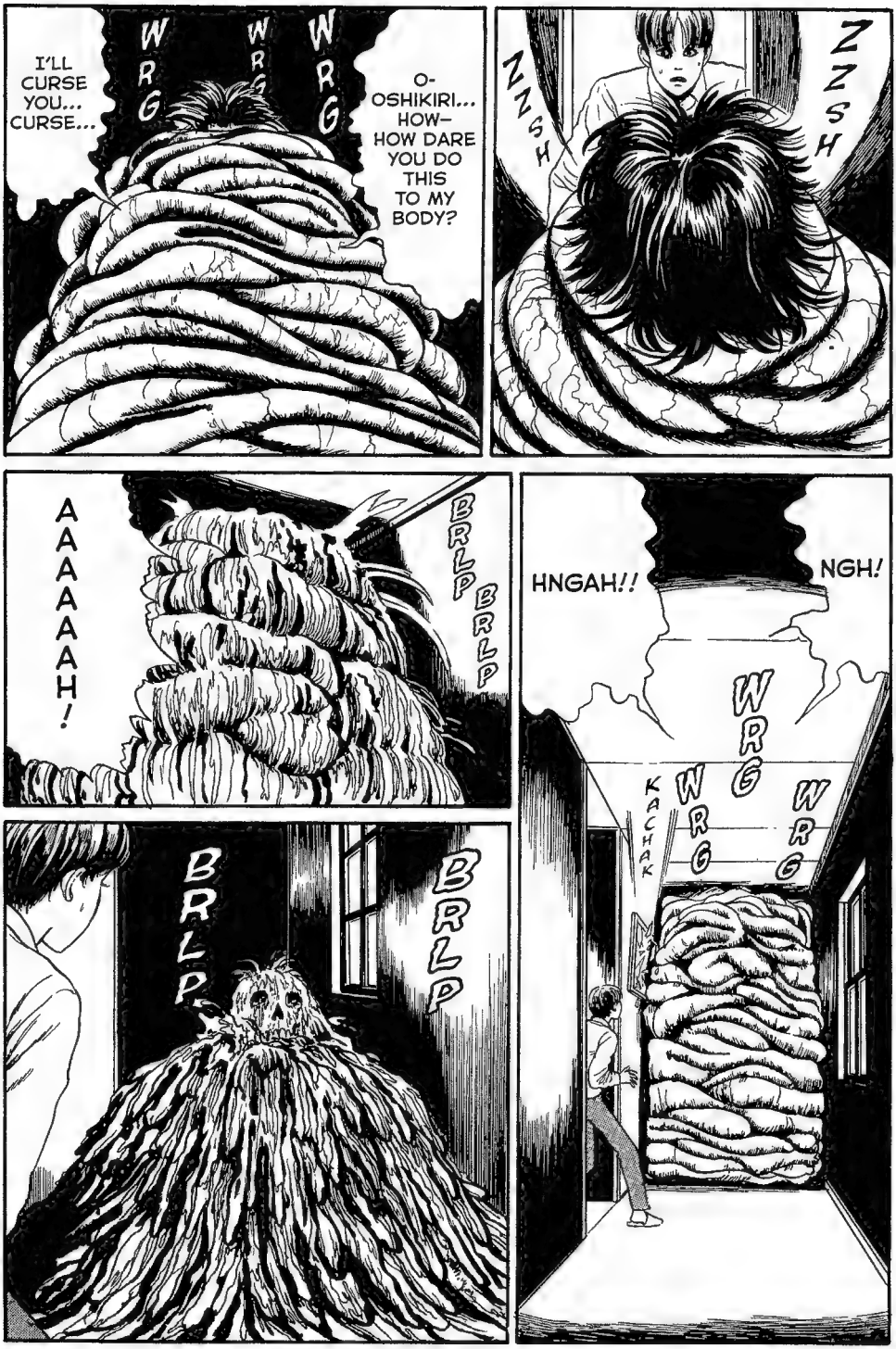
YOU STILL CAN GO HOME.
WHOA! AMAZING. I HAD NO IDEA THERE WAS A HOUSE LIKE THIS IN TOWN.
I'M SAYING IT FOR YOUR OWN SAKE.
I CAME ALL THIS WAY, AND YOU TELL ME TO GO HOME?
THERE'S A DOOR TO AN ALTERNATE DIMENSION IN THIS HOUSE.
I'M NOT LEAVING UNLESS YOU GIVE ME A REAL REASON.
AN ALTER-NATE DIMEN-SION?
YEAH. I GUESS THERE'S A PASSAGE THAT CONNECTS THIS WORLD TO ANOTHER ONE. SO IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL IN THERE, YOU'LL END UP LOST IN SOME OTHER DIMENSION.

SOMETIMES, PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE ALTERNATE DIMENSION APPEAR.
THIS IS FOR REAL.
I'M BEING SERIOUS HERE!
HUH. SOUNDS INTERESTING. NOW I WANT TO GO IN MORE THAN EVER.
IT'S SCARY.
AND SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENA... DON'T GO THINKING YOU'LL COME IN FOR CURIOSITY'S SAKE. THERE'S ALWAYS A PRICE TO PAY.
I'VE EVEN SEEN A GUY WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE ME.
I GUESS THAT WORLD IS EXACTLY LIKE THIS ONE.
I DON'T BELIEVE IN ALTERNATE DIMENSIONS OR ANY OF THAT STUFF. I'M NOT INTERESTED, SO I DON'T THINK THERE'LL BE ANY PAYBACK, EITHER.
IT'S FINE! LET ME COME IN!
HOW ABOUT YOU GO HOME?

I'M SURE YOU START THINKING LIKE THIS BECAUSE YOU'RE SO LOCKED UP IN YOUR SHELL.
COME OUT OF YOUR SHELL! I'LL HELP YOU.
I MEAN, SEEING SOMEONE WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU... I THINK THAT'S NOT AN ALTERNATE DIMENSION, BUT SOMETHING IN YOUR HEAD.
I'M ACTUALLY WORRIED ABOUT *YOU*, OSHIKIRI.
FINE. YOU CAN COME IN.
BUT YOU HAVE TO BE REALLY CAREFUL.
YEAH, I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE I WAS JUST SEEING THINGS.
SHE WAS JUST HERE A MINUTE AGO...
WHERE'D SHE GO?
HUH *?!*

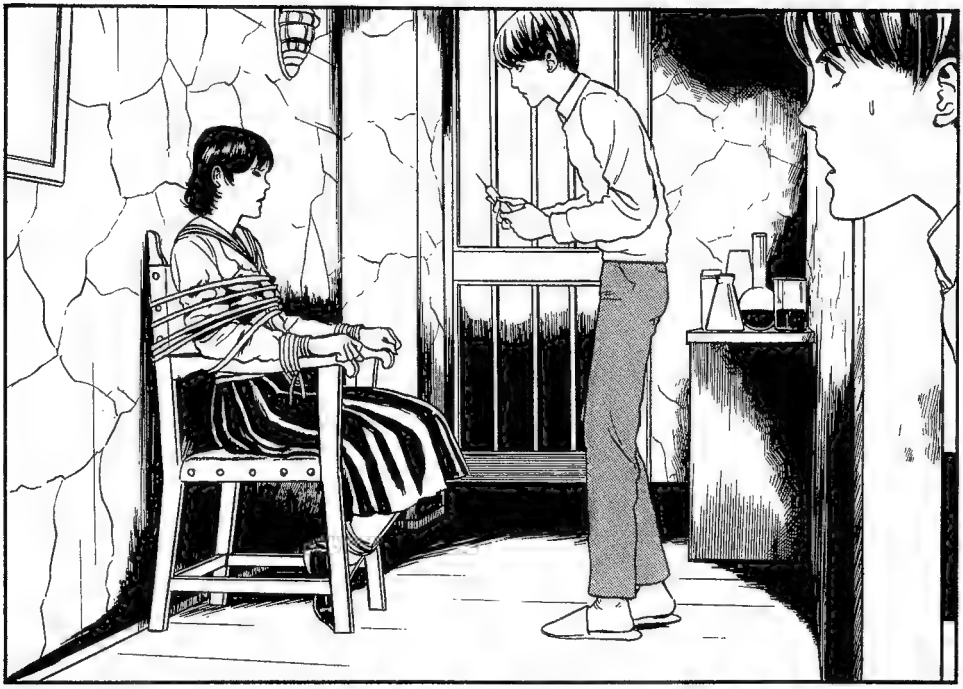
SHE COULDN'T HAVE...
DID SHE ACCIDENTALLY STEP INTO THE ALTERNATE DIMENSION?
WHAT'S GOING ON? IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS.
AND MIO FUJII HASN'T COME TO SCHOOL. SHE'S MISSING.
KREE
NOW WHAT?
ZZSH
ZZS
DAMMIT...
ZZSH
ZZSH
ZZSH
ZZSH
ZZSH
ZZSH
ZZSH
ZZS

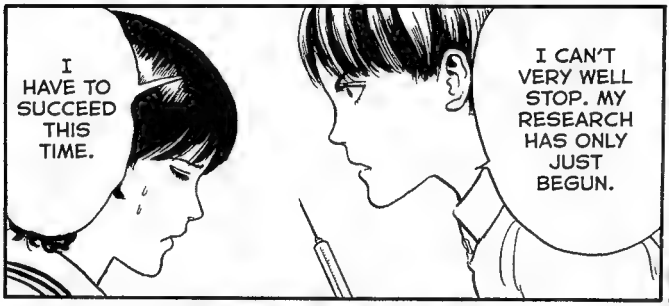

ZZSH
I FOUND YOUU-UUU.
O-OSHIKI-RIIII.
MIO FUJII!
THAT VOICE ...
OSHIKIRI. PUT MY BODY BACK THE WAY IT WAAAAS!


I'LL CURSE YOU... CURSE...
WRG WRG WRG
O-OSHIKIRI... HOW-HOW DARE YOU DO THIS TO MY BODY?
ZZSH
ZZSH
AAAAAAH!
BRLP BRLP
HNGAH!!
NGH!
WRG WRG WRG WRG
KACHAK
BRLP BRLP

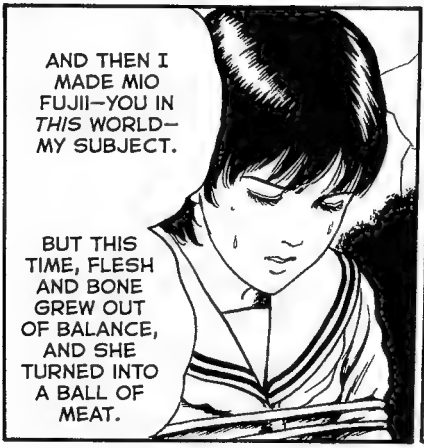
BRLP
BRLP
BRLP
BRLP
HOW DID THIS...
NO, WAIT. BUT WHICH FUJII IS THE ONE FROM THIS WORLD?
THIS... WAS MIO FUJII?
...
AT ANY RATE... SOMETHING TERRIFYING SEEMED TO BE HAPPENING IN THE ALTERNATE DIMENSION.
AND THE ONE MAKING IT HAPPEN APPEARED TO BE THE ALTERNATE ME.

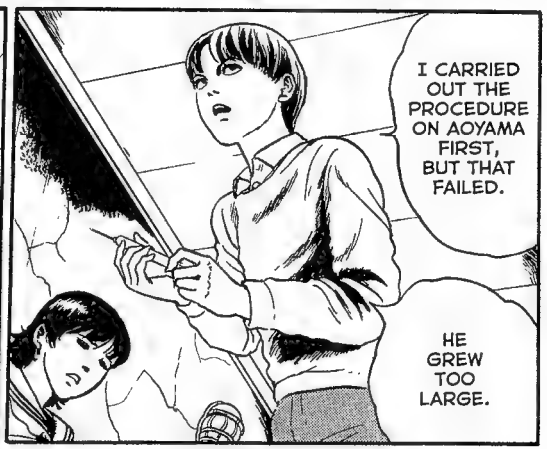
OH!
PLEASE... STOP...
LET ME GO...
WHO'S THAT?
PLEASE... OSHIKIRI...
WHEN DID I COME DOWN-STAIRS?
HUH? THIS IS THE FIRST FLOOR...
I WAS WALKING DOWN THE HALL ON THE SECOND FLOOR...




I HAVE TO SUCCEED THIS TIME.
I CAN'T VERY WELL STOP. MY RESEARCH HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN.

THAT'S ALTER-NATE ME!
AND MIO FUJII!


AND THEN I MADE MIO FUJII—YOU IN *THIS* WORLD—MY SUBJECT.
BUT THIS TIME, FLESH AND BONE GREW OUT OF BALANCE, AND SHE TURNED INTO A BALL OF MEAT.


I CARRIED OUT THE PROCEDURE ON AOYAMA FIRST, BUT THAT FAILED.
HE GREW TOO LARGE.

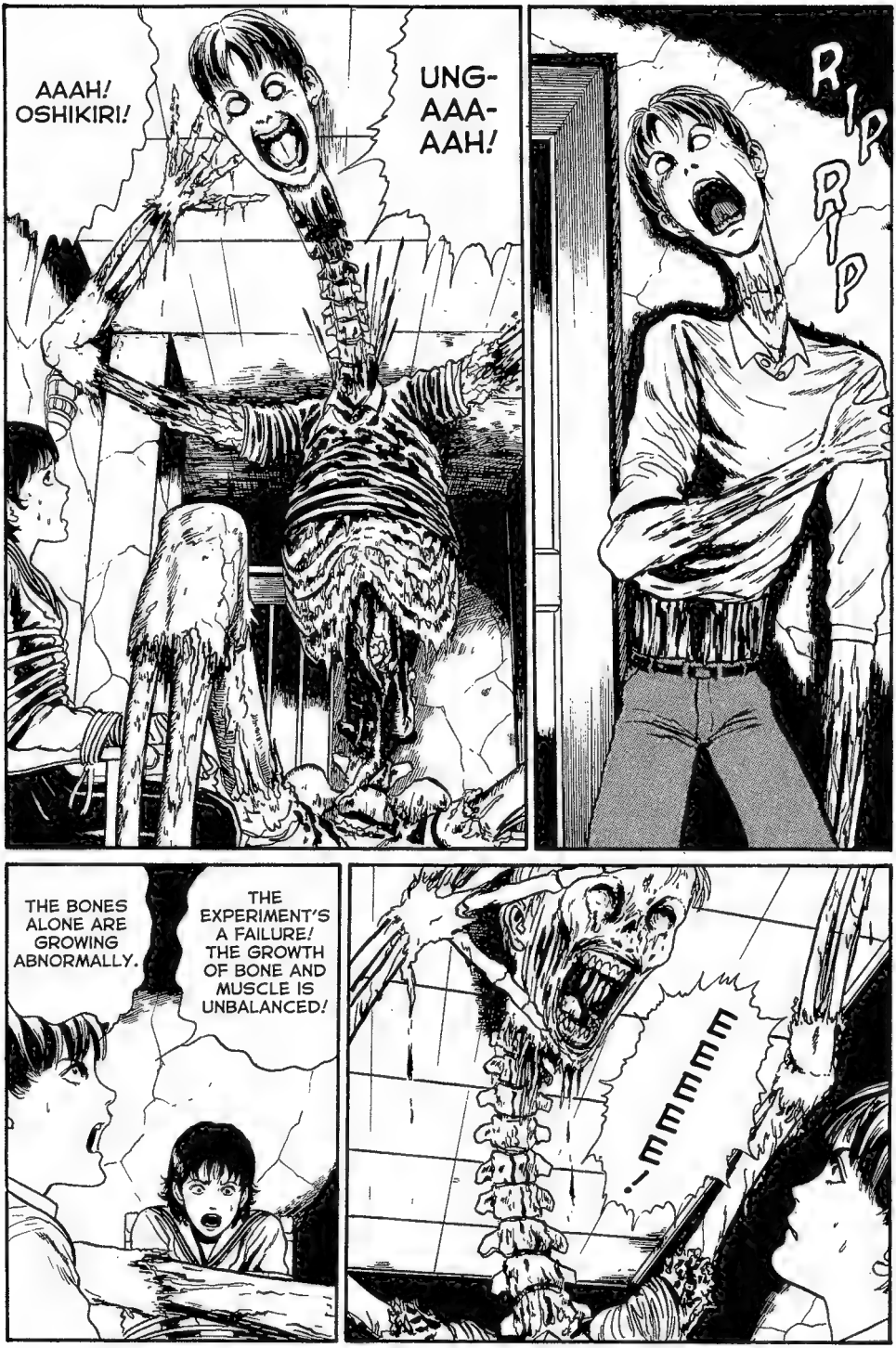
THERE WAS A PROBLEM IN THE DRUG MIXTURE.
I GUESS THEY MELTED AFTER THAT.
ANYWAY, IT WOULD HAVE TURNED INTO A THING IF I LEFT THEM IN THIS WORLD, SO I TOSSED THEM INTO THE OTHER DIMENSION– INTO *YOUR* WORLD.
LET ME GO...
STOP ...
YOUR TIMING IS PERFECT. I'M GOING TO TRY THE NEW DRUG ON YOU.
AND THEN YOU WANDERED INTO THIS WORLD.
I EXPECT THAT WE'LL SEE IDEAL HEIGHT GROWTH THIS TIME.
STOP !!
ST–
I SAID NOT TO WORRY.

SHOVE
STOP IT!
Y-YOU...
THUD
WHAT ?!
SO YOU FINALLY CAME INTO THIS WORLD.

WHAT? YOU DIDN'T REALIZE IT? THIS IS THE ALTERNATE DIMENSION. FOR YOU TWO...
SO THEN THIS...
OSHIKIRI! WATCH OUT!
SO THEN WHEN DID I WANDER IN HERE?
TCH!
SHWF
I'LL EXPERIMENT ON YOU, MY OWN SELF!
S-STAY BACK.

STAY BACK!
KRAK
BAM
STAY BACK ...
HAAH HAAH
HAAH HAAH
I SAID, STAY BACK!

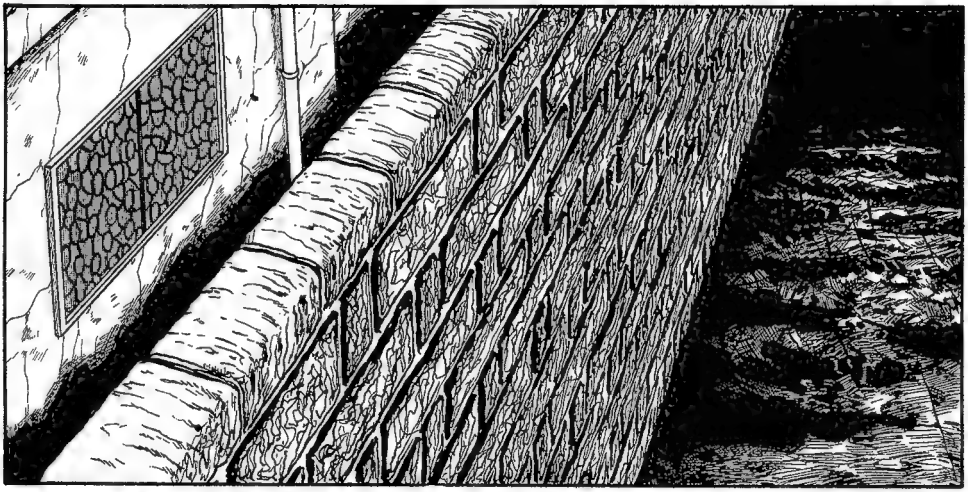
PSHT
CHHK
AAH!
AAH! OSHIKIRI!
NGAH!
UNH...
RRIP
Y-YOU...

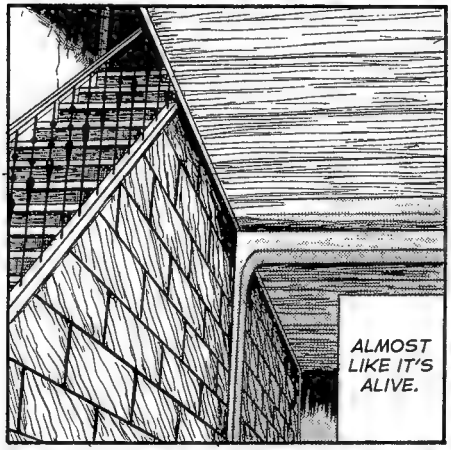

AAAH! OSHIKIRI!
UNG- AAA- AAH!
RIP RIP
THE BONES ALONE ARE GROWING ABNORMALLY.
THE EXPERIMENT'S A FAILURE! THE GROWTH OF BONE AND MUSCLE IS UNBALANCED!
EEEEEE-!

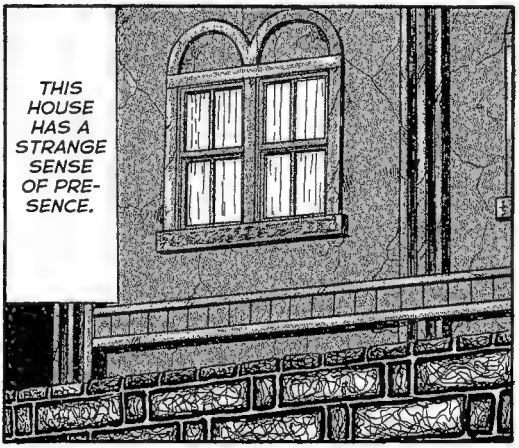
DEMON!
YOU MONSTER!
PUT OSHIKIRI BACK THE WAY HE WAS!
NOOOO! OSHIKIRI! PUT HIM BACK!
I'M OSHIKIRI.
FUJII, HANG ON.
NO! STAY AWAY FROM ME!
NGGH... YOU... DON'T THINK YOU CAN RELAX BECAUSE YOU KILLED ME...
THERE'S MORE THAN ONE ALTERNATE DIMENSION.
YOU'RE LYING ...
WHAT ?!
AND THEN I INJECTED HIM WITH IT...
IT'S TRUE. I TOOK THE SYRINGE WHEN I THREW HIM BEFORE.
THE ONE WHO TURNED INTO A MONSTER IS THE PERSON WHO MADE THE DRUG.

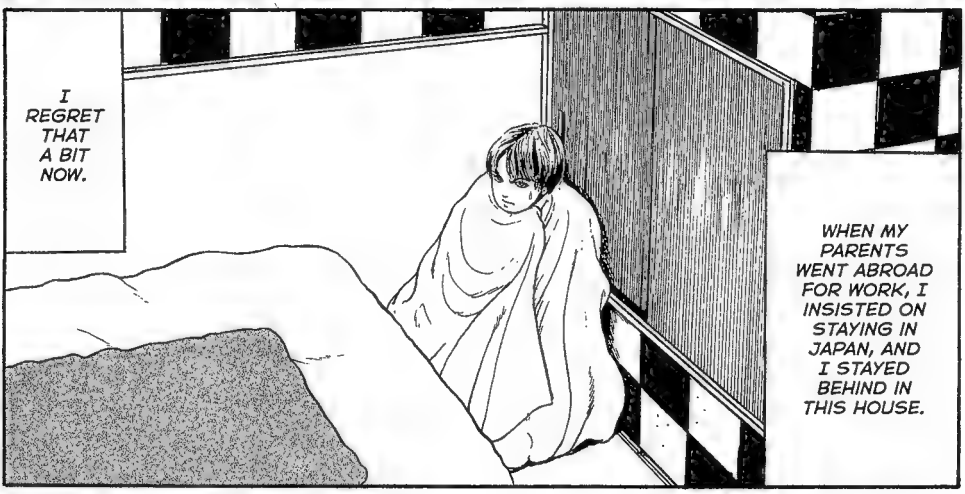
THE STRANGE TALE OF OSHIKIRI / END

押切異談・壁
THE STRANGE TALE OF OSHIKIRI: THE WALLS




ALMOST LIKE IT'S ALIVE.


THIS HOUSE HAS A STRANGE SENSE OF PRE-SENCE.

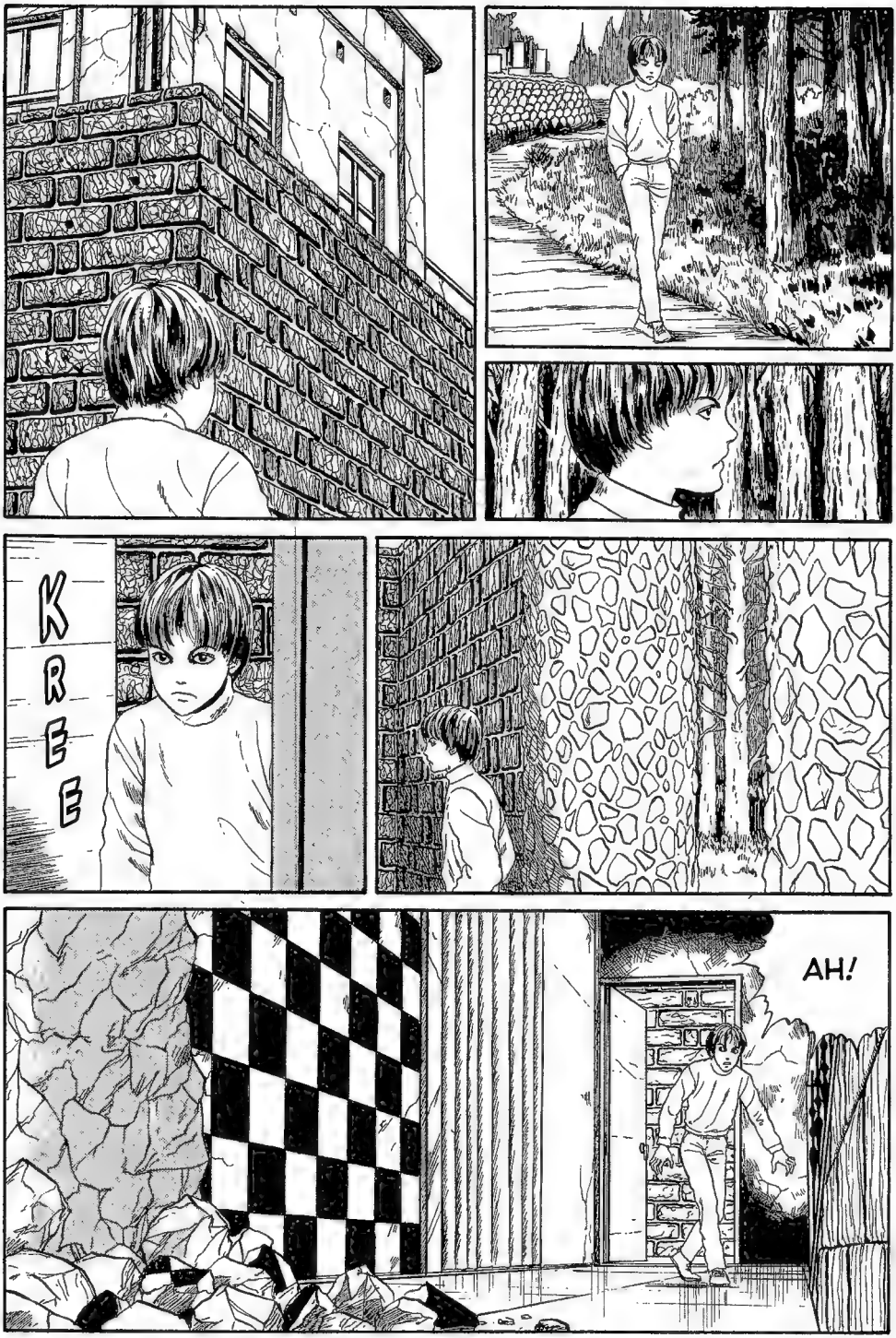

I REGRET THAT A BIT NOW.
WHEN MY PARENTS WENT ABROAD FOR WORK, I INSISTED ON STAYING IN JAPAN, AND I STAYED BEHIND IN THIS HOUSE.

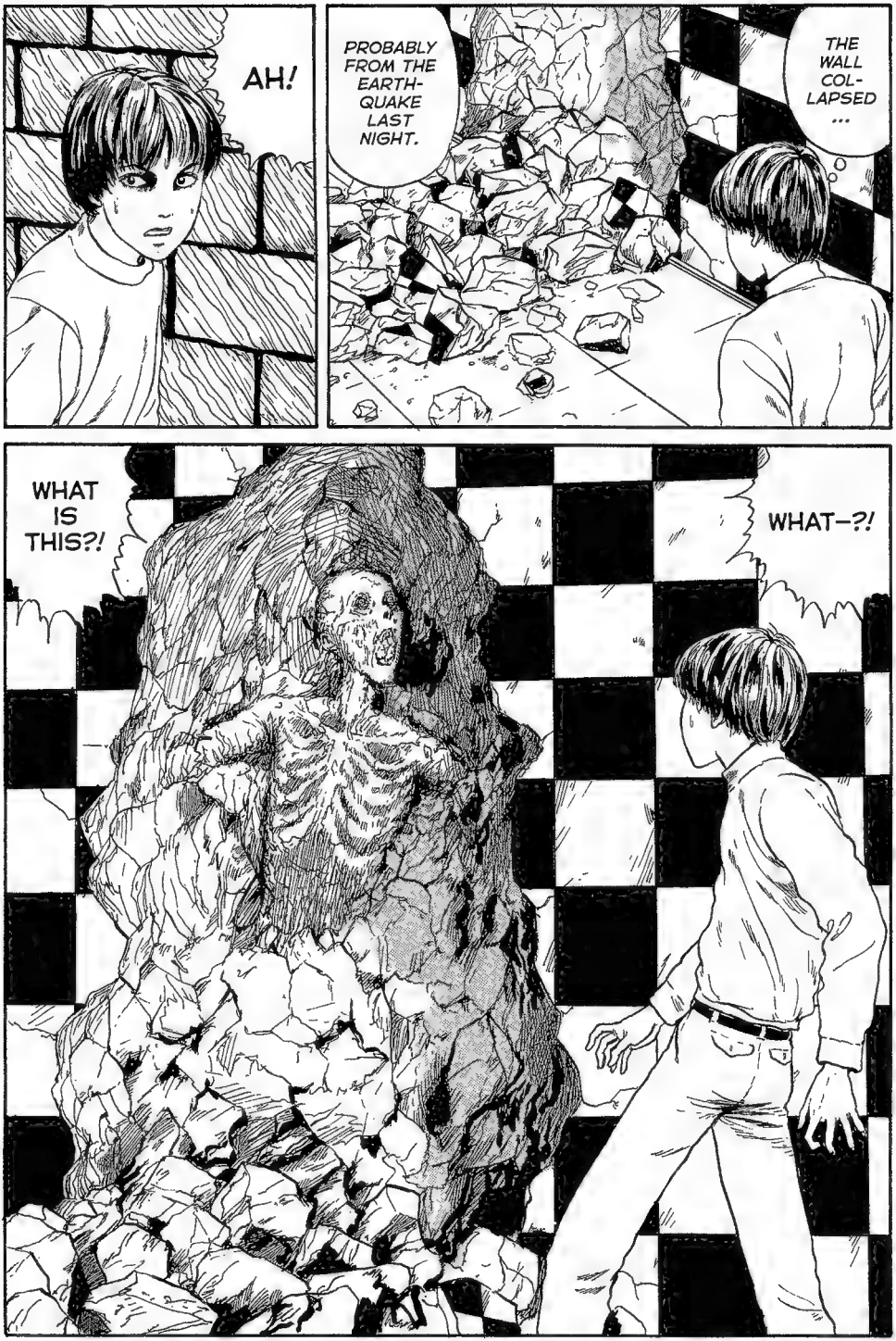
SHUF
SHUF
SHUF
I KEEP SEEING THINGS, HEARING THINGS...
... SEEMS TO BE MAKING ME LOSE IT.
BECAUSE LIVING ALONE IN THIS MANSION...
KRIII
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
AAH!
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM

AS YOUR COUSIN, I CAN'T EXACTLY SIT BY AND WATCH YOU KEEP DOING THIS WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING.
I TOLD YOU BEFORE, TORU, IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE LONELY. ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP LIVING IN THAT HOUSE ALL BY YOURSELF?
MORE HALLUCI-NATIONS, HUH?
SO THEN YOU'RE FINE WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE?
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN TALK TO, TAKAYUKI.
...WHAT HAP-PENED THERE.
DON'T TELL ANY-ONE...
I'LL TALK TO MY DAD AND YOUR PARENTS. YOU'RE COMING TO LIVE HERE, EVEN IF WE HAVE TO FORCE YOU.
SHUDDER
!
TORU... DO YOU EVER TALK TO YOUR PARENTS ON THE PHONE?
YEAH, SOMETIMES... BUT THEY'RE MORE THE HANDS-OFF TYPE.
...

SHAKE
SHAKE
AAAH!
EARTH-
QUAKE!
SHAKE
CRASH
SHAKE
SHAKE
TORU!
GET UNDER
THE DESK!

PHEW...
IT'S OVER. THAT WAS A BIG ONE, HUH?
KEE
KEE
...
YEAH, MOM. WE'RE FINE.
TAKAYUKI!! TORU! YOU BOYS OKAY?!
OKAY ...
AND THINK ABOUT LIVING HERE, TORU.
ANYWAY... TOMORROW'S SUNDAY. STAY OVER TONIGHT.
THAT REALLY SCARED ME.
OKAY ...

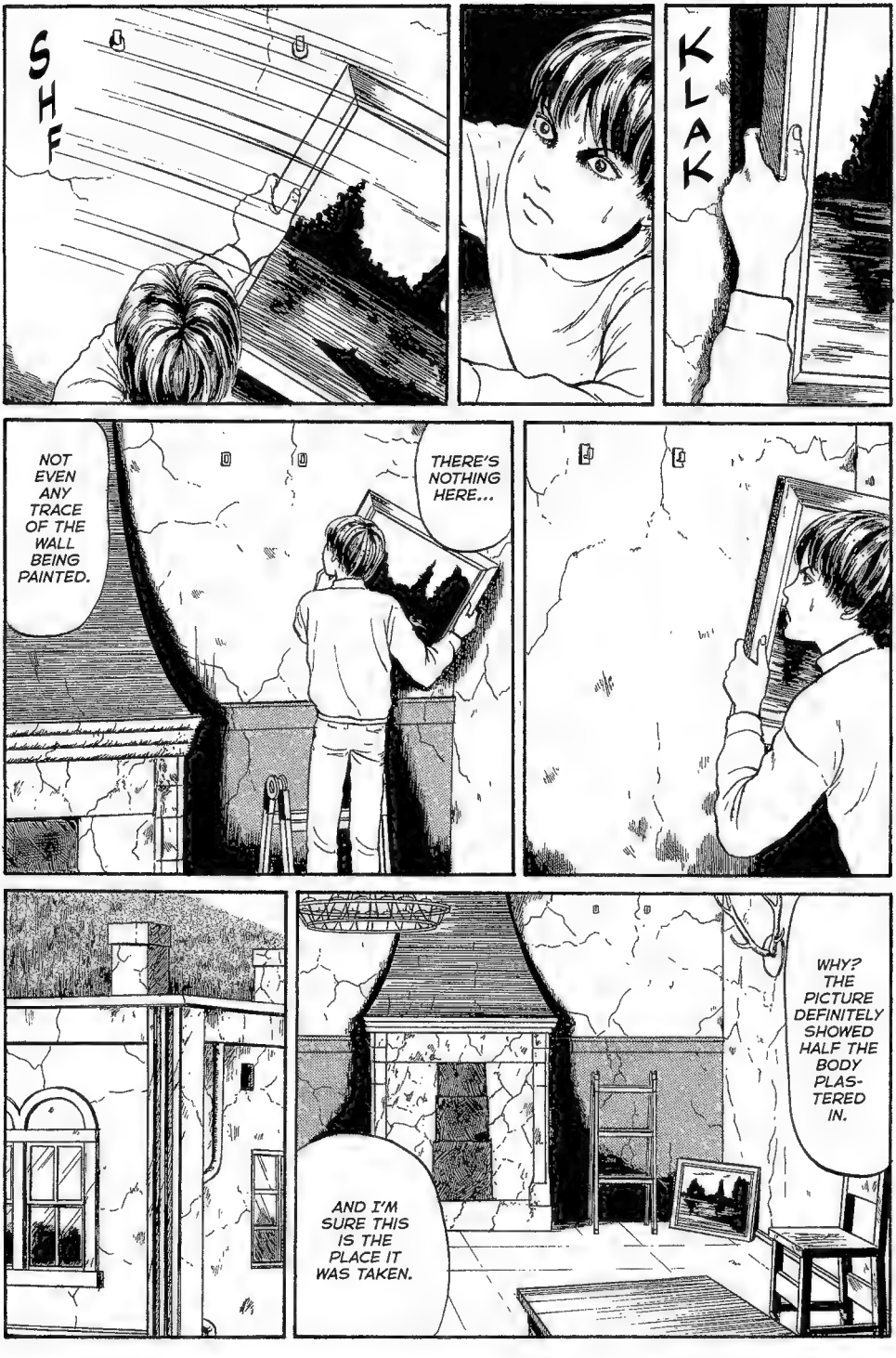

KREE
AH!


AH!
PROBABLY FROM THE EARTH-QUAKE LAST NIGHT.
THE WALL COL-LAPSED ...
WHAT IS THIS?!
WHAT—?!

A BODY.
SOMEONE BURIED IT IN THE WALL.
WHO COULD HAVE...
IT'S PRETTY OLD.
NO... IT'S MORE LIKE IT'S PETRIFIED.
IT'S LIKE A MUMMY.
IT'S PART OF THE WALL NOW.
I THREW MYSELF INTO DIGGING THROUGH THE OLD RECORDS OF THE HOUSE.
DID ONE OF MY ANCESTORS PLASTER UP A DEAD BODY?
I THOUGHT I MIGHT FIND SOME CLUE IN THEM.

HUH?
...THEN MAYBE IT WASN'T MY FAMILY WHO BURIED IT THERE.
BUT IF THIS HOUSE WAS BUILT BEFORE HE CAME TO LIVE IN IT...
IT SAYS MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER WAS DUTCH...
Diary
A PHOTO?
WHAT IS THIS PICTURE? IT SEEMS REALLY OLD.
BUT WHAT'S HE DOING? HALF HIS BODY'S STICKING OUT OF THE WALL.

THE SHOT'S OF THIS WALL.
THERE'S A PICTURE HANGING RIGHT WHERE HE WAS.
AND TO HIDE THE CROSS-SECTION, THIS PAINTING...
MAYBE THE MAN WAS KILLED AND HALF-BURIED HERE. AND THEN THE PART THAT STUCK OUT WAS CUT OFF.
AT THAT MOMENT, A FRIGHTENING GUESS ROSE UP IN MY MIND.
NO WAY...
THAT'S TERRIFYING.


SHF
KLAK
NOT EVEN ANY TRACE OF THE WALL BEING PAINTED.
THERE'S NOTHING HERE...
WHY? THE PICTURE DEFINITELY SHOWED HALF THE BODY PLASTERED IN.
AND I'M SURE THIS IS THE PLACE IT WAS TAKEN.

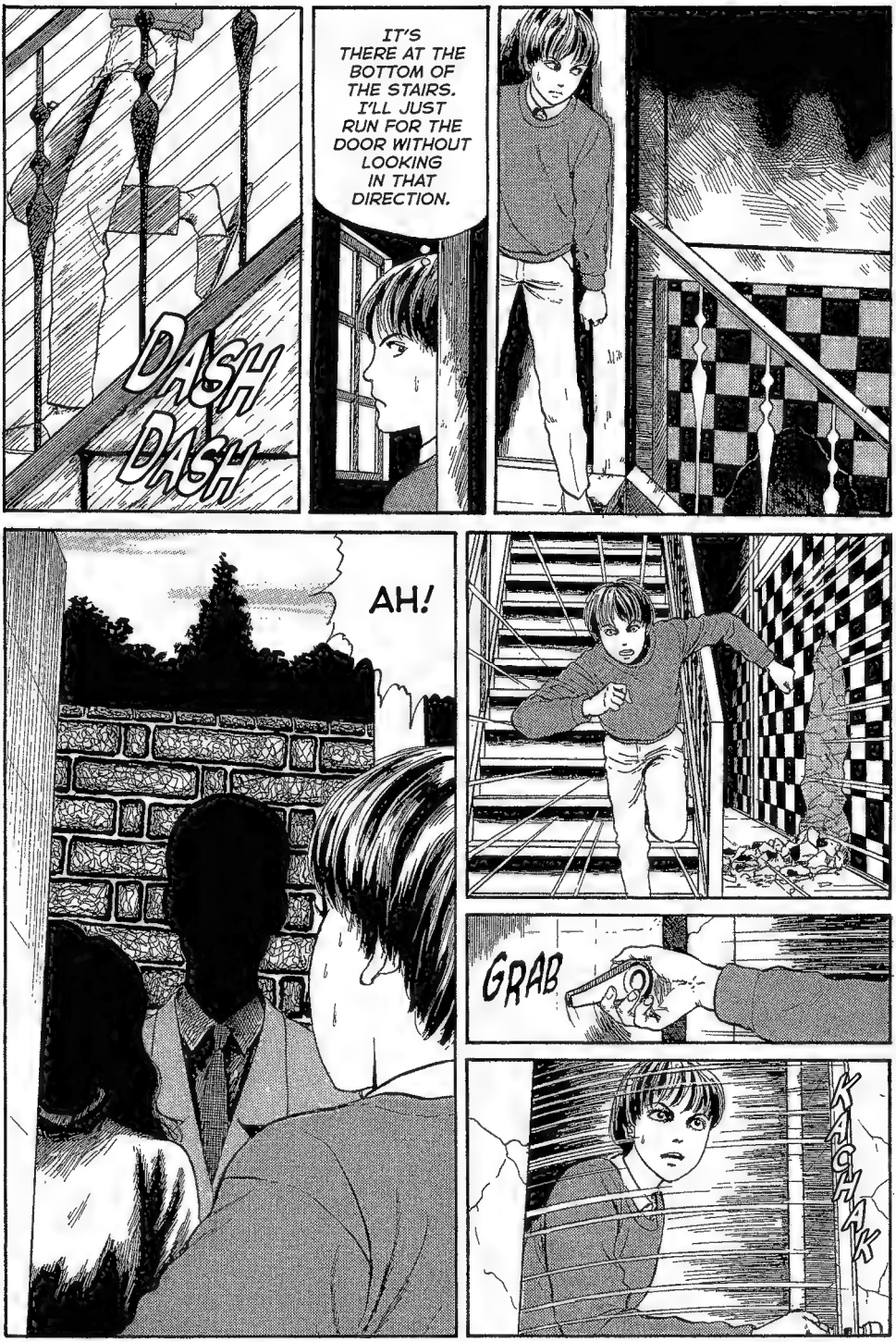
TORU! HOW ARE YOU? ARE YOU EATING?
YES, MOM.
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SOUND BLUE. SOMETHING HAPPEN?
HUH ?
NO... NOTHING. I'M FINE.
OH? ... THAT'S GOOD THEN.
OH. SO, UM, WHEN ARE YOU COMING HOME?
RIGHT, RIGHT. THAT'S WHY I CALLED. WE'LL BE BACK NEXT WEEK. ALTHOUGH WE CAN ONLY STAY THREE DAYS.
OKAY.
...WAS THERE SOMETHING ELSE?
NO.
OKAY THEN. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

I CAN'T EXACTLY TALK ABOUT A BODY STICKING OUT OF THE WALL ON THE PHONE.
IF THE POLICE CAME TO INVESTIGATE, THERE'S A CHANCE THEY'D CHECK THE COURTYARD, TOO.
AND DIFFERENT BODIES ARE BURIED HERE.
THE CORPSES OF MY THREE FRIENDS ARE SLEEPING HERE.
BUT NOT THIS ME... ANOTHER ME...
...FROM ANOTHER WORLD... A ME WHO CAME FROM AN ALTERNATE DIMENSION BURIED THEM HERE.
AND ...
...THE ONE WHO BURIED THEM WAS... ME.
I SAW IT. THIS GUY WHO LOOKED JUST LIKE ME BURYING BODIES UNDER THE TWILIGHT SKY...
THAT WAS NO HALLUCINATION.
I LEARNED OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE ALTERNATE WORLD THEN.
THERE'S A DOORWAY TO THAT DIMENSION SOMEWHERE IN THIS HOUSE.

BUT THIS ISN'T HIS WORK... TOO OLD.
ANYWAY, I'LL COVER THE WALL BACK UP BEFORE MOM AND DAD COME HOME.
I CAN JUST LEAVE THE WALL THE WAY IT IS, SAY IT COLLAPSED IN THE EARTHQUAKE.
I SHOULD DIG THE BODY OUT AND BURY IT IN THE YARD.
NO...WAIT. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT PLASTERING WALLS. I'LL NEVER GET IT THE WAY IT WAS.

CLANG
KRRK
AAH!
WH...
WHAT ?!
THAT VOICE JUST NOW...

SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
I'M HEARING THINGS... IT'S OBVIOUSLY JUST IN MY HEAD.
THERE'S NO WAY A DEAD BODY CAN TALK...
AND I MEAN, THE SOUND OF BUGS CRAWLING AROUND, THAT'S CLEARLY ALL IN MY HEAD.
THIS SOUND ...
IT'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF...
M–
MAYBE I'LL GO STAY AT TAKAYUKI'S TONIGHT...


DASH DASH
IT'S THERE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRS. I'LL JUST RUN FOR THE DOOR WITHOUT LOOKING IN THAT DIRECTION.
AH!
GRAB
KNCHK

DAD... MOM...
WHAT'S WRONG, TORU? YOU SEEM SO SURPRISED.
YOUR FATHER WANTED TO SEE YOU RIGHT AWAY, TORU.
OUR PLANS CHANGED, ACTUALLY.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE COMING HOME NEXT WEEK?
OH, IS THAT WHY YOU'RE SURPRISED?
...THE WALL COLLAPSED AND A BODY...
ACTUALLY... DON'T BE UPSET...
WHAT ?
OH. YEAH. ACTUALLY...
HUH?!
OH MY! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE WALL?

THIS IS IT THEN.
TORU... YOU MAKE SOME STRANGE JOKES.
WHAT ?!
YOU *WERE* JOKING, HM?
THERE'S NOTHING HERE.
WHAT?! THAT'S–
I'M NOT!
TORU, YOU'RE TEASING US AGAIN.
WHAT HAP-PENED? IT REALLY WAS HERE BEFORE.
THIS PETRIFIED CORPSE.

OH, TORU. YOU POOR THING.
COME ON. WE'LL GO SIT AND HAVE TEA IN THE LIVING ROOM.
YOU'RE JUST TIRED.
WHERE'D IT GO ?!
IT REALLY WAS THERE.
JUST WAIT HERE. THERE'S SOME-THING ELSE!
NO!! IT'S NOT JUST IN MY HEAD!

IT *IS* A STRANGE PHOTO, TO BE SURE.
IS IT BAD?
OH, THIS? I JUST BURNED IT A BIT.
MM-MM. IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS.
WHAT?
HUH? MOM, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HAND?
BUT I NEVER HEARD ANY TALK ABOUT IT.
IT'S PROBABLY A TRICK PHOTOGRAPH.
THIS WAS LIKELY TAKEN IN YOUR GREAT-GRAND-FATHER'S DAY.
DID IT PEEL AWAY FROM THE WALL? NO, IT COULDN'T HAVE. THERE WAS NO IMPRINT LEFT.
EVEN SO, WHERE'D THAT BODY GO?

I'LL BURN IT.
BOMF
IN ANY CASE, NOTHING GOOD'LL COME OF KEEPING THIS PHOTO AROUND.
I CAN'T LOOK AT ANY MORE FIRES!
STOP!
...NO!
FWSH
FWSH
...
CALM DOWN.
I CAN'T ...
YUKA, I'M SORRY!
MOM!
AH... SORRY. I'LL PUT IT OUT!

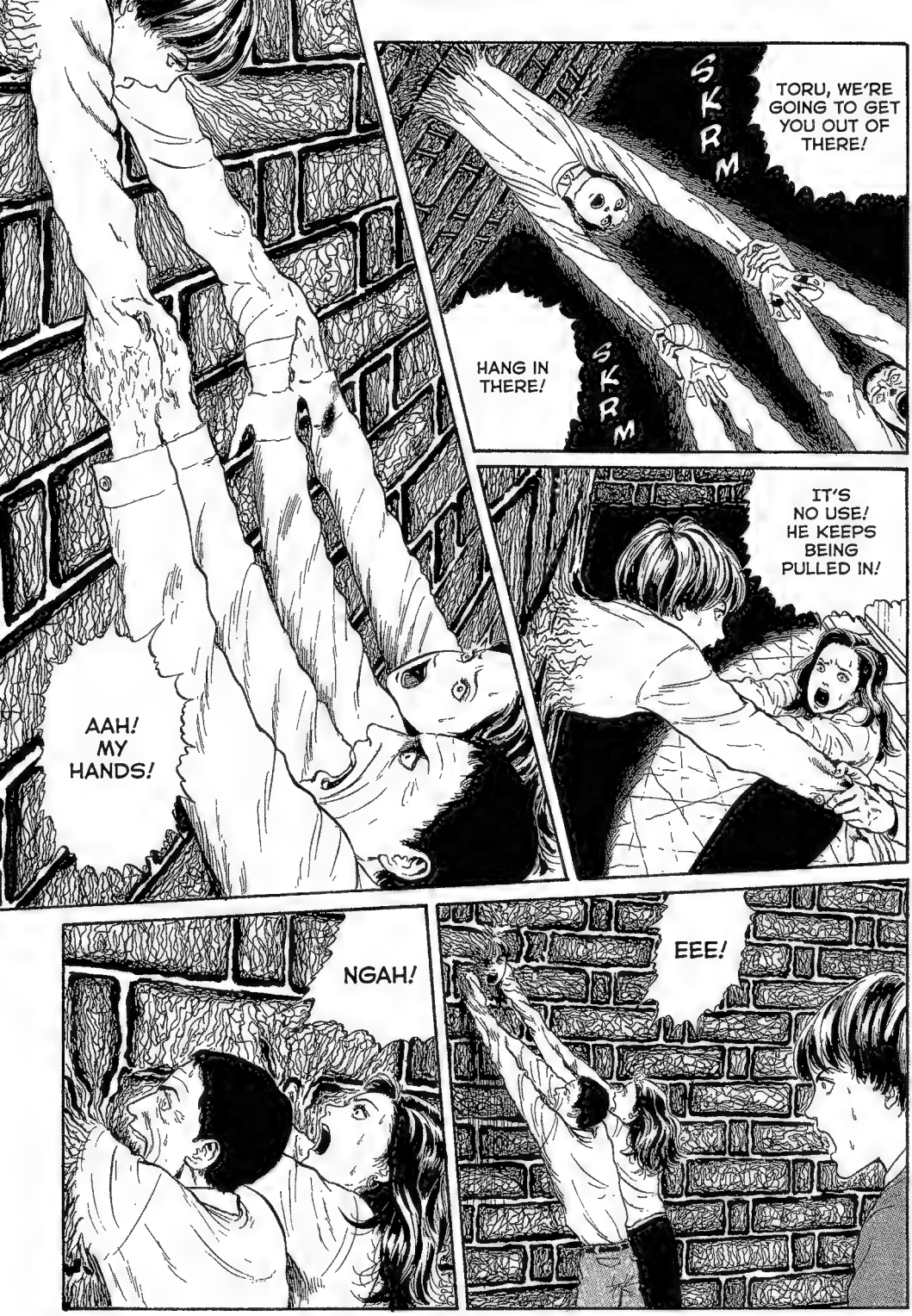
SOME-THING'S WEIRD WITH MOM AND DAD...
GET THE PHONE, TORU.
OKAY.
RRRRING
MM-HMM. WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SOUND SO SURPRISED.
WHAT?! MOM?!
IT'S MOM.
OH, TORU?
CHAK
OSHI-KIRI RESI-DENCE.
...HEL-LO?
CHAK
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET BACK FOR A WHILE, BUT YOU'RE OKAY, RIGHT?
YOU MAKE SURE YOU EAT PROPERLY. OKAY THEN...
ARE YOU LISTENING? LOOK, HONEY, I KNOW I SAID WE'D BE BACK IN JAPAN NEXT WEEK.
BUT YOUR DAD SUDDENLY HAS URGENT BUSINESS, SO WE CAN'T COME NOW.

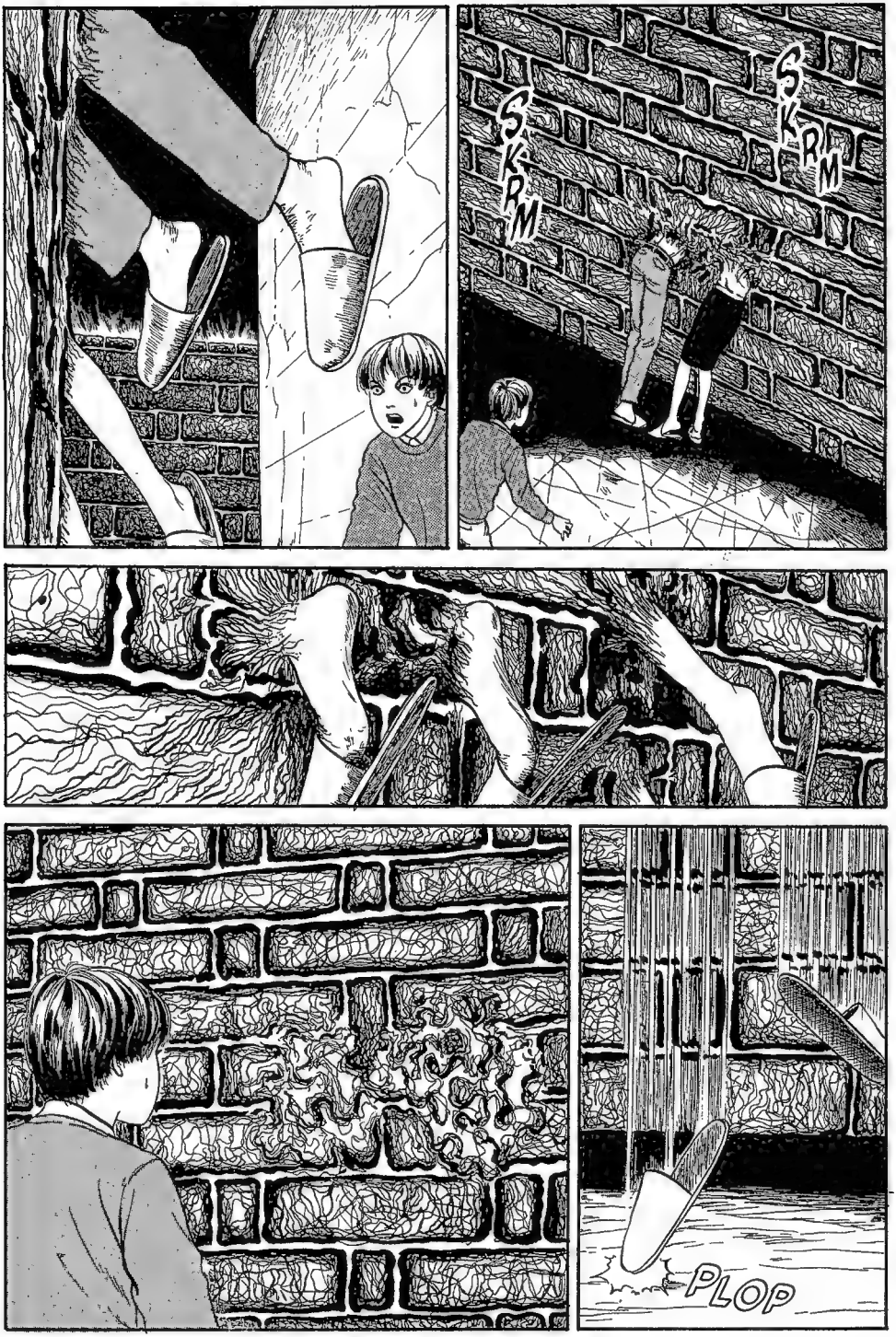
SO THEN... WHO ARE THOSE TWO WHO CAME BACK?
WHAT IS GOING ON?
AH!!
WHO WAS ON THE PHONE?
A FRIEND.
NO ONE...
I SEE. A FRIEND... BUT IT'S BEST NOT TO USE THE PHONE ANYMORE.
AH!
SNAP
CHAK

WHO WE REALLY ARE.
YOU... YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU?
AH! W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
WE'VE COME AND GONE ANY NUMBER OF TIMES IN THE PAST. THE ALTER-NATE WORLD IS EXACTLY LIKE THIS ONE.
WE LIVED IN A HOUSE JUST LIKE THIS ONE.
WE CAME FROM AN ALTERNATE DIMENSION.
HEH HEH...
THERE'S A DOOR-WAY TO IT IN THIS HOUSE, YOU SEE?
THAT'S RIGHT. WE'RE NOT YOUR REAL PARENTS.
NOT ONLY DID OUR HOUSE COLLAPSE, BUT IT CAUGHT FIRE. EVERYTHING WAS BURNED TO THE GROUND.
BUT THERE WAS A BIG EARTHQUAKE IN OUR WORLD THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY.
OUR FAMILY NO LONGER HAD A PLACE TO LIVE.

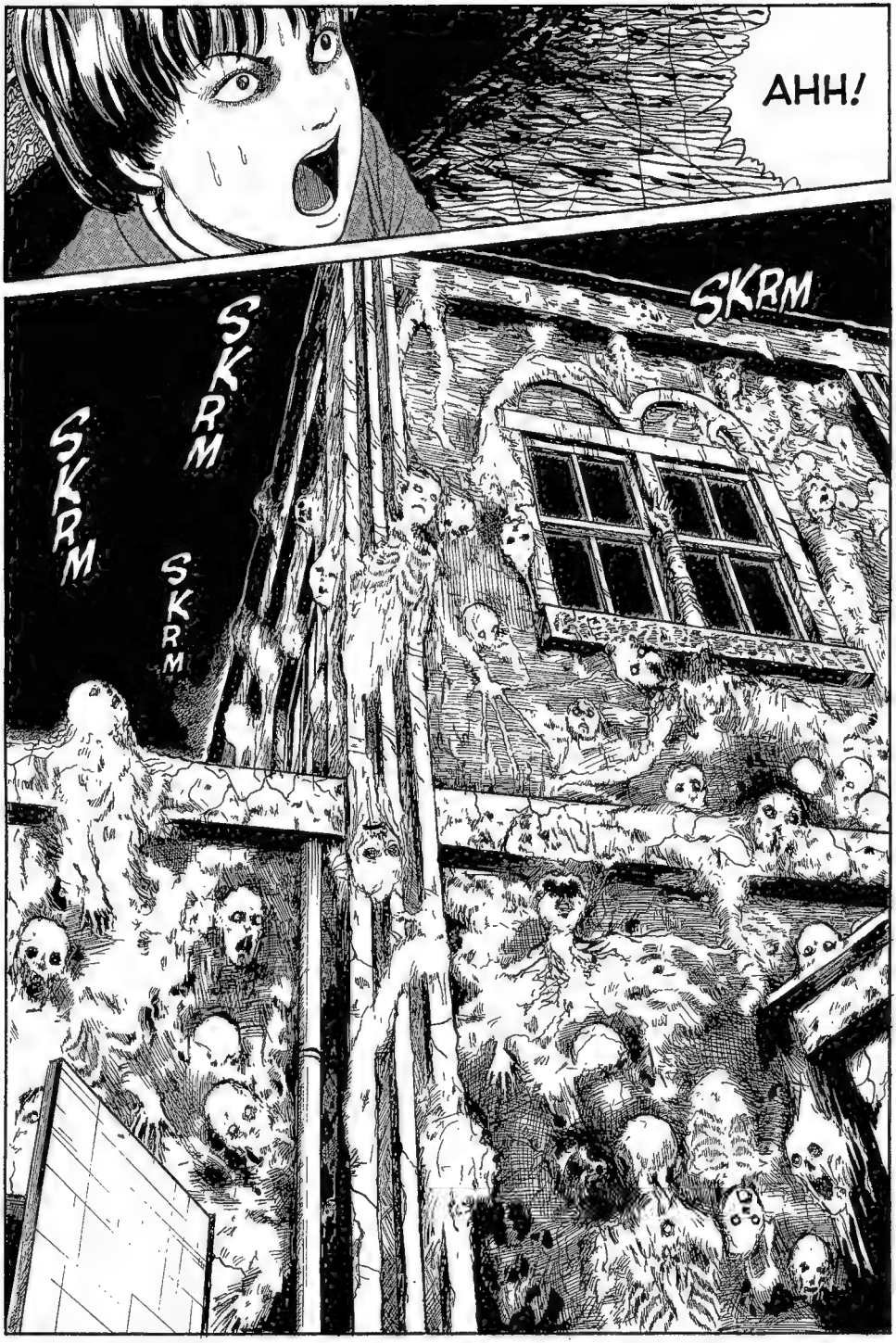
WHICH IS WHY ...
...IT'S GOING TO CAUSE PROBLEMS IF YOU'RE STILL HERE THEN.
OUR SON SHOULD BE HERE SOON ENOUGH. HE'S JUST LIKE YOU.
BUT IT SEEMS THE HOUSE IN THIS WORLD IS FINE.
AAAAAH!
THAT'S TORU!
IT'S COMING FROM OUT-SIDE!!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
TORU !!
AAAAAH! HELP MEEEEEE!
AH!

AAH!
HELP ME!
TORU!
BANG
AAH, THIS IS— YOU DIDN'T MAKE IT BETWEEN DIMENSIONS! YOU APPEARED WHERE THE WALL IS AND NOW YOU'RE PART OF IT!!
TORU!
R- RIGHT!
HURRY!! HE'S GOING TO BE SWALLOWED UP!!
WE'LL PULL YOU OUT. HONEY, HURRY, HELP ME!
BUT...
ONCE HE'S PART OF THE WALL—


AAH! MY HANDS!
HANG IN THERE!
SKRM
SKRM
TORU, WE'RE GOING TO GET YOU OUT OF THERE!
IT'S NO USE! HE KEEPS BEING PULLED IN!
EEE!
NGAH!


SKRM
SKRM
PLOP

THE MAN IN THE PHOTO. THE BODY IN THE WALL. WERE THEY FROM OTHER DIMENSIONS, TOO?
ALL THREE WERE SUCKED INTO THE WALL...
WHAT THE–
THEY'RE... THEY'RE ALIVE INSIDE THE WALLS. ALL THIS TIME...
SKRM
SKRM
...AND THEY'RE CRAWLING AROUND IN THERE!!
THE STRANGE SENSE OF PRESENCE IN THIS HOUSE.
THE WRITHING SOUNDS I HEAR AT NIGHT...
SKRM
SKRM
SKRM
THEY'RE... IT'S THE SOUND OF MOVEMENT INSIDE THE WALLS.
AND...THE VOICE FROM THAT DEAD BODY...
JUST HOW MANY PEOPLE FROM ALTERNATE DIMENSIONS HAVE BECOME PART OF THIS HOUSE?

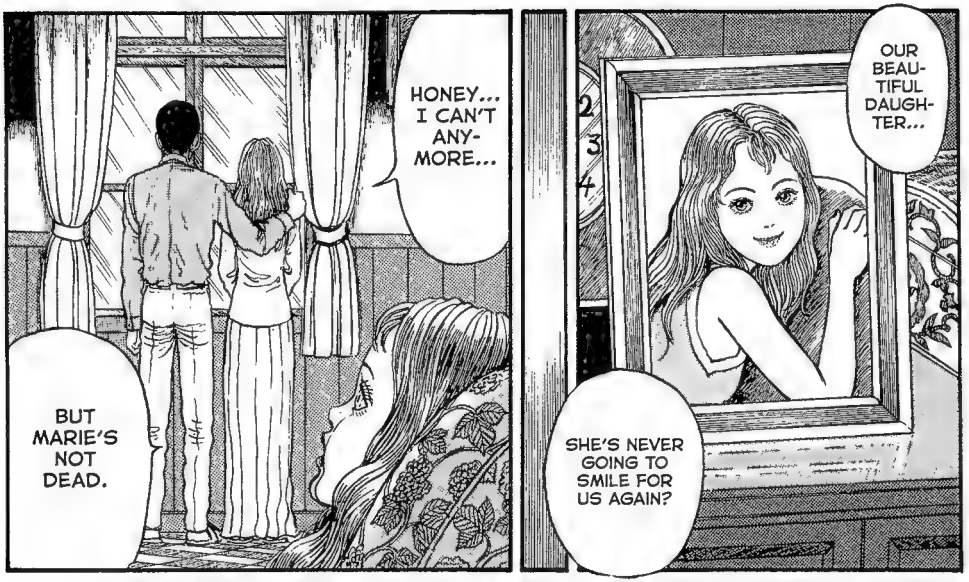


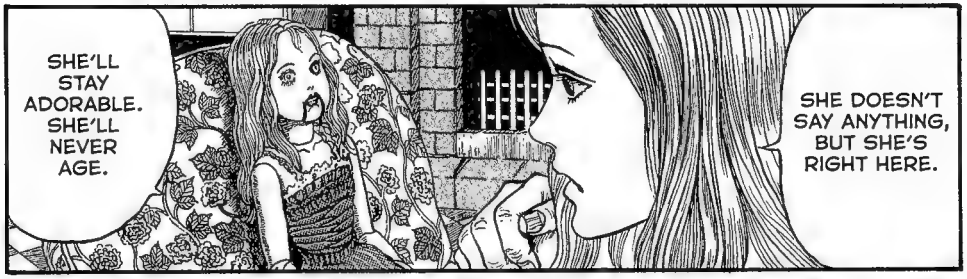
THE STRANGE TALE OF OSHIKIRI: THE WALLS / END

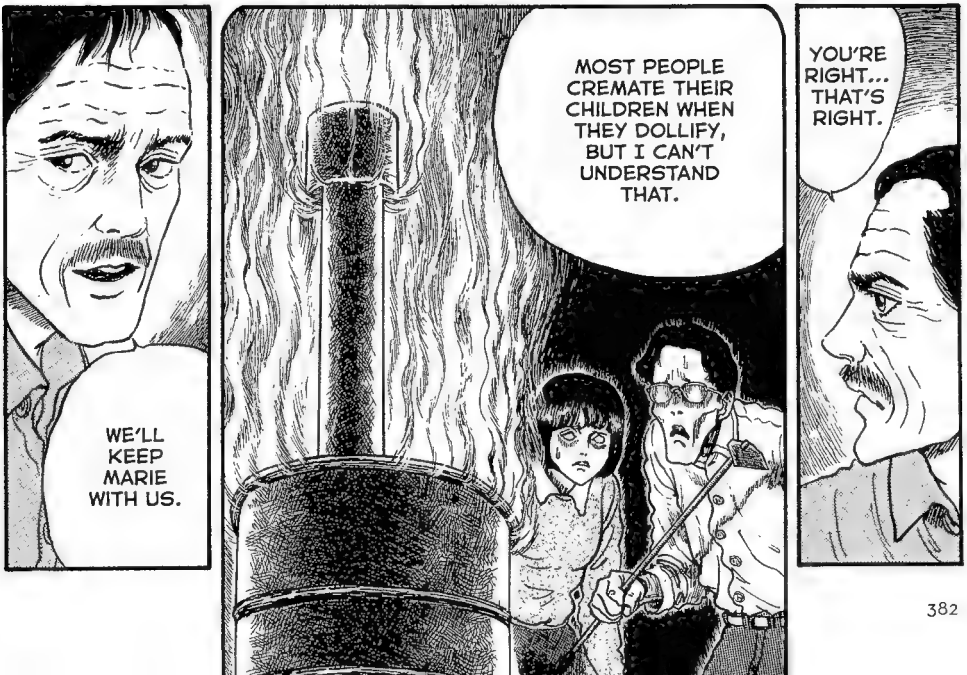
人形の地獄
THE HELL OF THE DOLL FUNERAL
RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE
PSSSSH
THE THING I FEARED HAS BECOME REALITY.
CRACKLE
HOW CAN THIS BE ...?
IN THE END... MY DAUGHTER TOO...
PSSSSH
...THE SIGNS OF DOLLIFICATION ...

DADDY? WHY ARE YOU SO SCARED?
FLASH
MM. IT'S NOTHING, MARIE.
DADDY?
HER FACE LACKS REAL EXPRESSION, HER EYES DON'T FOCUS.
AND THE FAINT BOUND-ARY LINES AT HER JAW...
YES, THERE'S NO MISTAKE. HER SKIN HAS HARDENED ...
CRACKS HAVE APPEARED AT HER JOINTS, GIVING RISE TO BOUNDARIES.

...ARE CURRENTLY DOLLIFYING.
ACCORDING TO A CERTAIN INSTITUTE'S SURVEY, 30 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN...
MARIE'S COMPLETELY A DOLL NOW.
AAAH, HONEY!
SHE'S NOT RESPONDING TO ME AT ALL!
KLAK
LOOK AT HER! SHE'S NOT MOVING AT ALL!
HON!


HONEY... I CAN'T ANY-MORE...
BUT MARIE'S NOT DEAD.
OUR BEAU-TIFUL DAUGH-TER...
SHE'S NEVER GOING TO SMILE FOR US AGAIN?


SHE'LL STAY ADORABLE. SHE'LL NEVER AGE.
SHE DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING, BUT SHE'S RIGHT HERE.

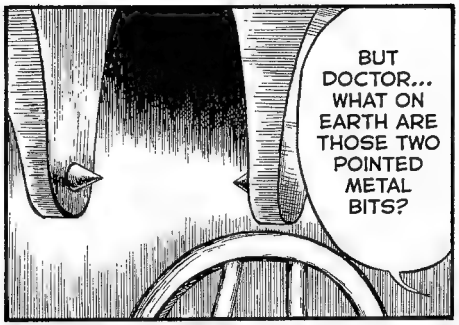

WE'LL KEEP MARIE WITH US.
MOST PEOPLE CREMATE THEIR CHILDREN WHEN THEY DOLLIFY, BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THAT.
YOU'RE RIGHT... THAT'S RIGHT.

NO, IT'S AWFUL. LOOK...
MARIE'S ...
...WE CAME TO UNDERSTAND THE FEELINGS OF THE PARENTS WHO BURN THE DOLLS.
BUT EVENTUALLY...
MARIE... WHY?!
THE CHANGES IN HER BODY DIDN'T STOP THERE?!
YES ...
YOU... WE SHOULD CREMATE MARIE...
MARIE CONTINUED TO CHANGE AFTER THAT.

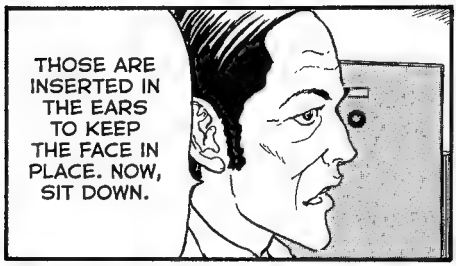
WE CAN'T LET ANYONE SEE HER LIKE THIS...
OUR POOR MARIE...
THE HELL OF THE DOLL FUNERAL / END

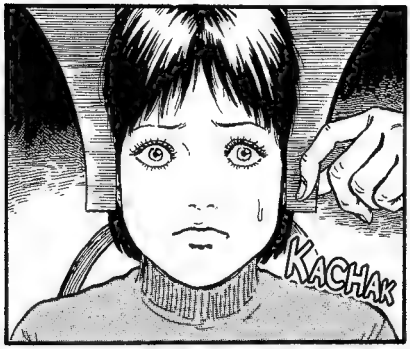
FACE FIRMLY IN PLACE

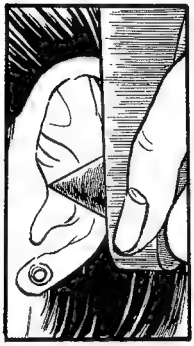
顔面固定


BUT DOCTOR... WHAT ON EARTH ARE THOSE TWO POINTED METAL BITS?

OH... IT'S A DEVICE THAT LETS US TAKE PHOTOS OF FACIAL STANDARDS.
WE'LL TAKE A PICTURE OF YOUR FACE TO DIAGNOSE YOUR ORTHODONTIA.

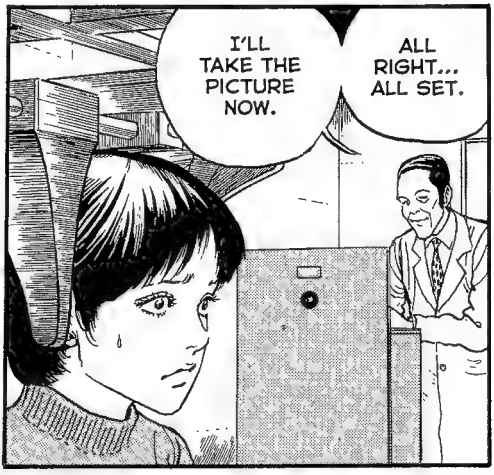

THOSE ARE INSERTED IN THE EARS TO KEEP THE FACE IN PLACE. NOW, SIT DOWN.


KACHAK



DON'T MOVE...

IT'S LIKE A TORTURE CHAIR.
WHAT IS THIS? I CAN'T MOVE AN INCH...


I'LL TAKE THE PICTURE NOW.
ALL RIGHT... ALL SET.

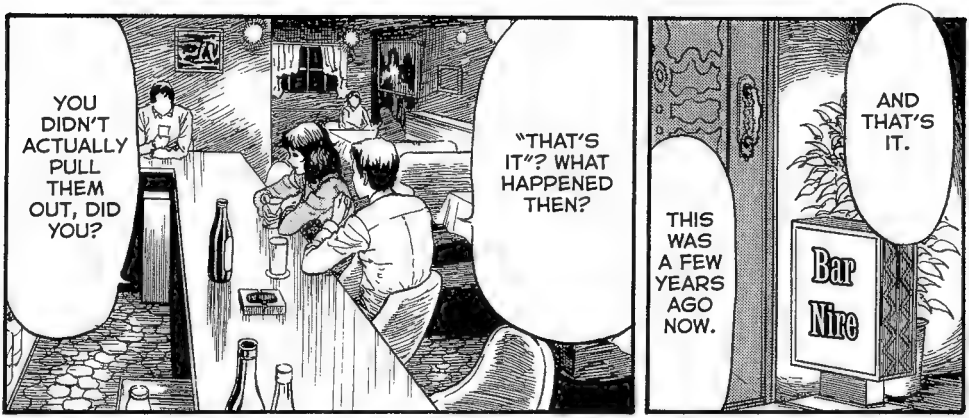
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
SORRY. HANG ON A MINUTE.
HM? THIS WON'T DO.
THERE'S NO FILM.
THD THD THD
AAH!
AH!
TOUTO UNIVERSITY DENTAL HOSPITAL
DOCTOR OTAKE!!
THUD
CALL AN AMBU-LANCE!!
THIS LOOKS BAD!

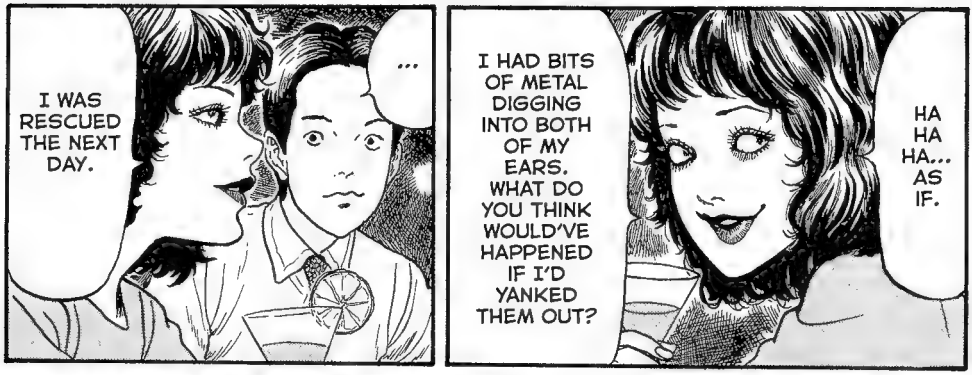
IS ANYONE THERE?!
UM! EXCUSE ME!
I COULDN'T MOVE AT ALL, AND I STARTED TO GET TIRED. I WAS REALLY ANXIOUS.
TIME PASSED, AND DR. OTAKE STILL DIDN'T COME BACK.
WHAT IF NO ONE EVER COMES?
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
ALMOST NO ONE PASSED THROUGH THE THIRD FLOOR IN PARTICULAR, WHERE THE DIAGNOSIS ROOMS WERE.
THIS UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL SPECIALIZED IN ORAL SURGERY, BUT THE BUILDING WAS RIDICULOUSLY LARGE.
SOON, NIGHT FELL.
I REALIZED THAT I REALLY HAD BEEN LEFT THERE IN THE HOSPITAL.
...IT'S NO USE... I REALLY CAN'T MOVE AN INCH...
SOMEONE, HELP!
SOMEONE!

R-RIGHT... A SCREW... A SCREW... THERE HAS TO BE ONE SOMEWHERE.
AHH... CALM DOWN...
SOME-ONE HAS TO COME AROUND ON PATROL OR SOME-THING!!
WHY...? WHY WON'T ANYONE COME?!
WHERE IS THE SCREW?!
WHERE IS IT?
SCREW, SCREW.
HA HA HA! I'M SUCH AN IDIOT.
I JUST HAVE TO LOOSEN THAT.
SOME-ONE HELP ME!!
SOME-ONE!
AAAAAH! I CAN'T!
AAAA-AAAH!

I'M LOSING MY MIIIIIND.
I CAN'T STAND THIS.
HAAH.
HAAH.
I'M STUCK HERE!
AAAAAH! THIS REALLY IS TORTURE!
I WANT TO LIE DOWN.
I WANT TO CHANGE POSI-TIONS.
HNGAH!
DAMMIT! LIKE I'M GOING TO JUST ACCEPT THIS!

GAAAH!
EEAH!
IT HUUUU-URTS!
AAAAAH!
I'M YANKING THEM OUT!
I CAN'T STAND IT!
I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANY-MORE!
AUUUGH!!
HYAH!

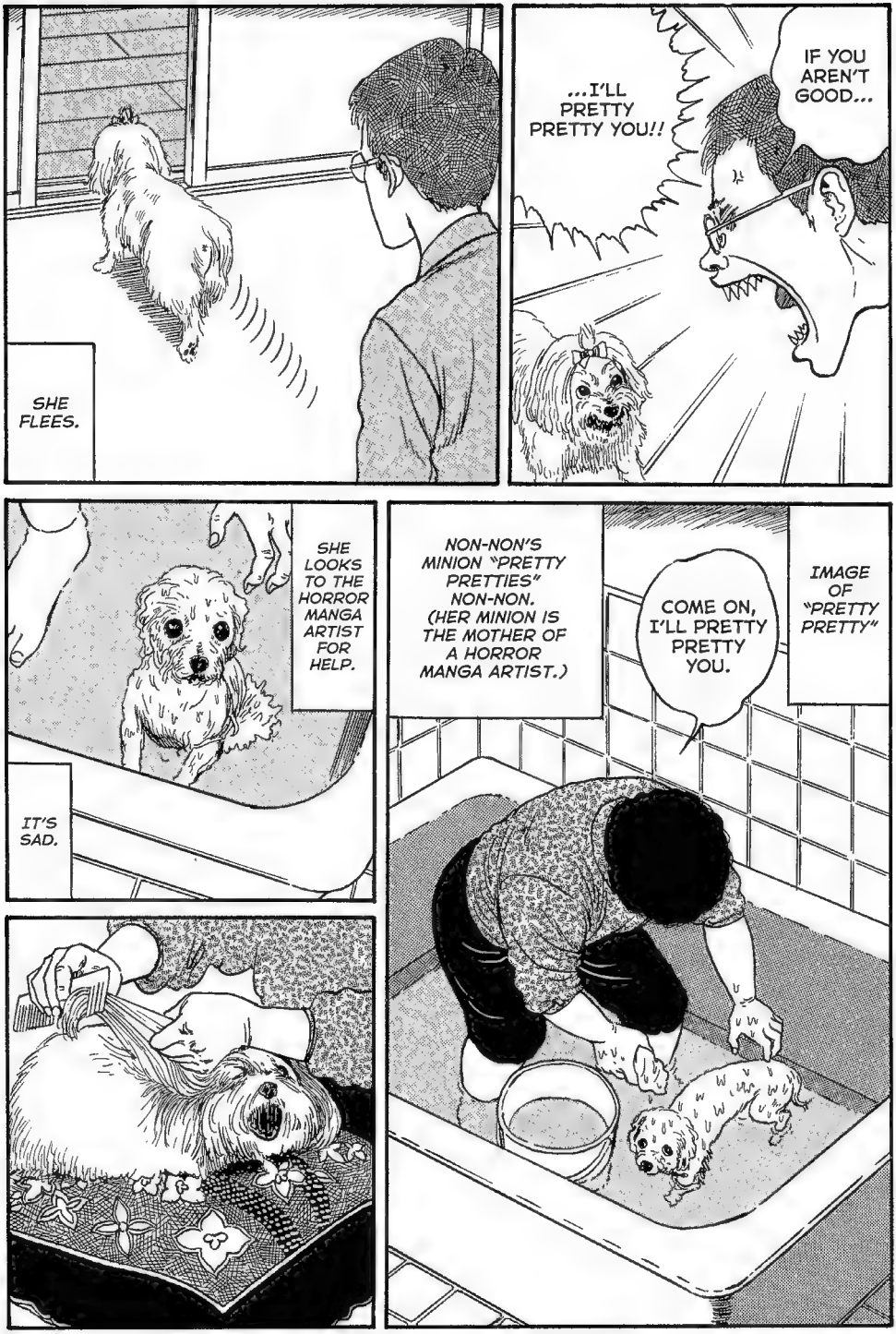

YOU DIDN'T ACTUALLY PULL THEM OUT, DID YOU?
"THAT'S IT"? WHAT HAPPENED THEN?
THIS WAS A FEW YEARS AGO NOW.
AND THAT'S IT.
Bar Nire

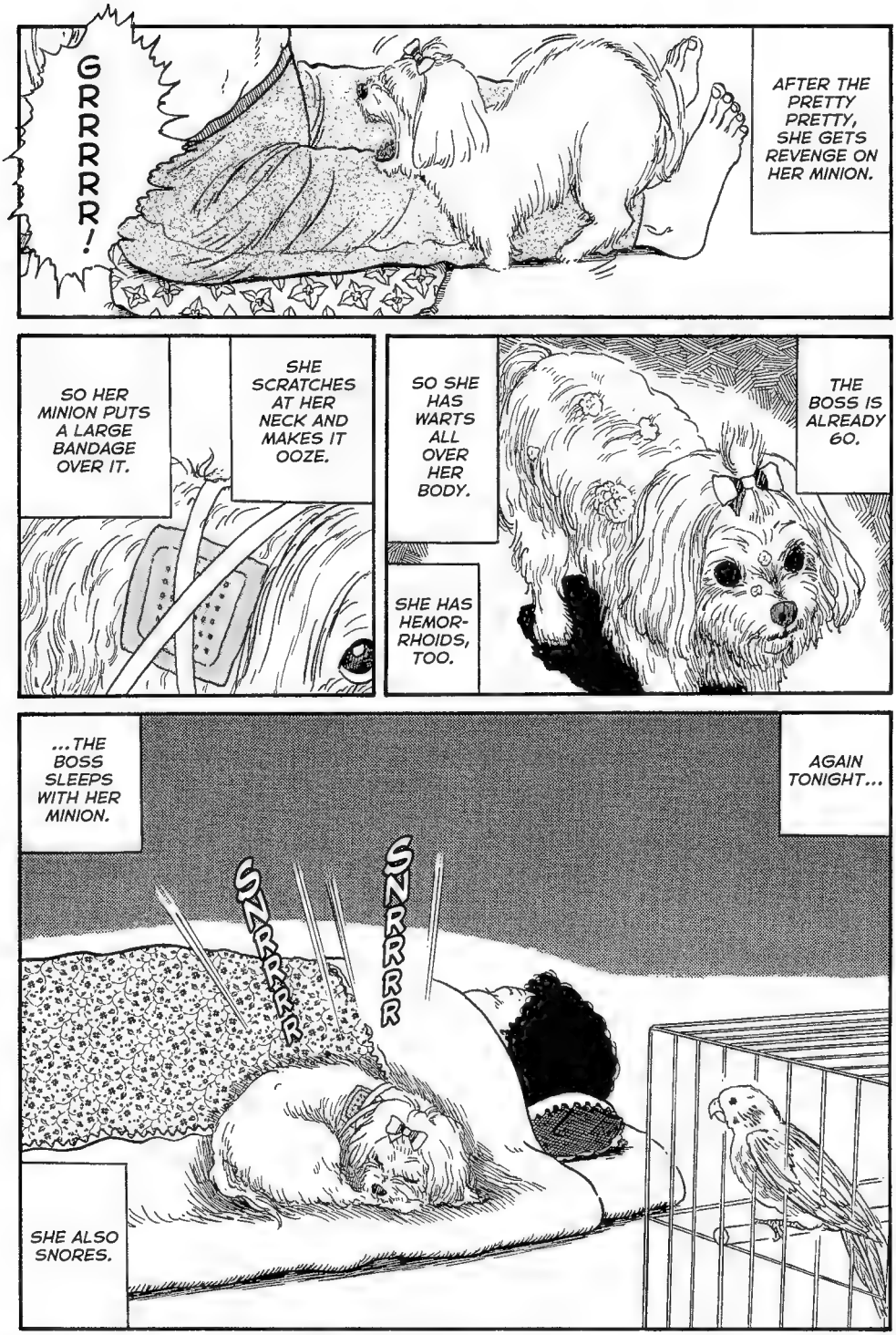

...
I WAS RESCUED THE NEXT DAY.
I HAD BITS OF METAL DIGGING INTO BOTH OF MY EARS. WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD'VE HAPPENED IF I'D YANKED THEM OUT?
HA HA HA... AS IF.

MAYBE DON'T!!
?!
...YOU WERE, HUH?
SHOW ME YOUR EARS. I'LL CHECK IF THEY'RE REALLY OKAY, YOU KNOW?
FACE FIRMLY-IN PLACE / END

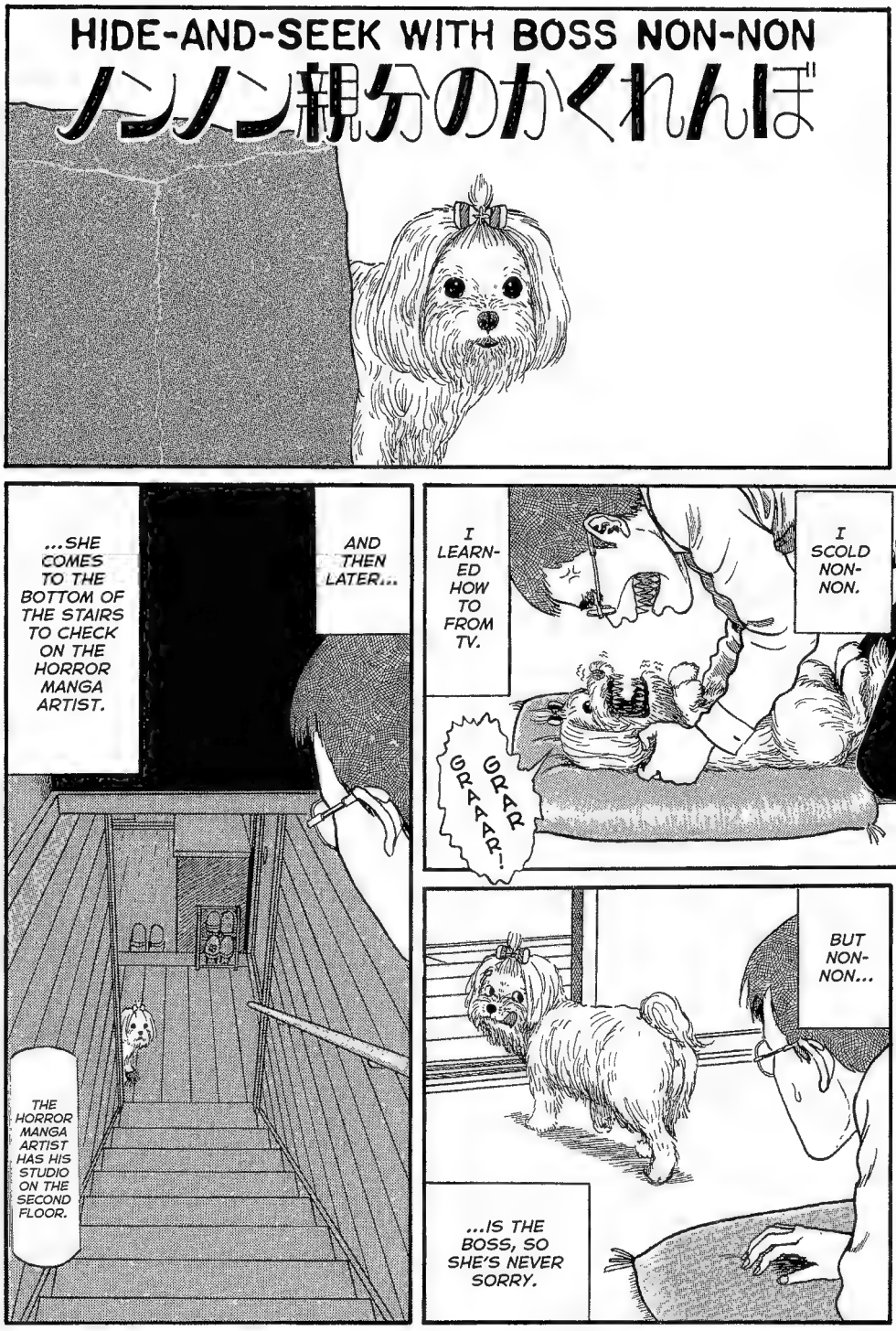
ノンノン親分
BOSS NON-NON
伊藤潤二
JUNJI ITO
NON-NON ITO, FEMALE MALTESE.
SHE'S 60.
BUT SHE'S WILL-FUL.
GRRRRRR!
WOOF!
SKRTCH
SKRTCH
WOOF!

...?
GRRRR!
WHAT? YOU WANT ME TO HUG YOU? C'MERE.
GRRRRRR!
SNIFF SNIFF
FOOD? YOU WANT A TREAT? HERE YOU GO.
PIKO
WOOF! WOOF!
WOOF WOOF.
WOOF WOOF.
WOOF!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
WOOF! WOOF!


SHE FLEES.
...I'LL PRETTY PRETTY YOU!!
IF YOU AREN'T GOOD...
IT'S SAD.
SHE LOOKS TO THE HORROR MANGA ARTIST FOR HELP.
NON-NON'S MINION "PRETTY PRETTIES" NON-NON. (HER MINION IS THE MOTHER OF A HORROR MANGA ARTIST.)
COME ON, I'LL PRETTY PRETTY YOU.
IMAGE OF "PRETTY PRETTY"

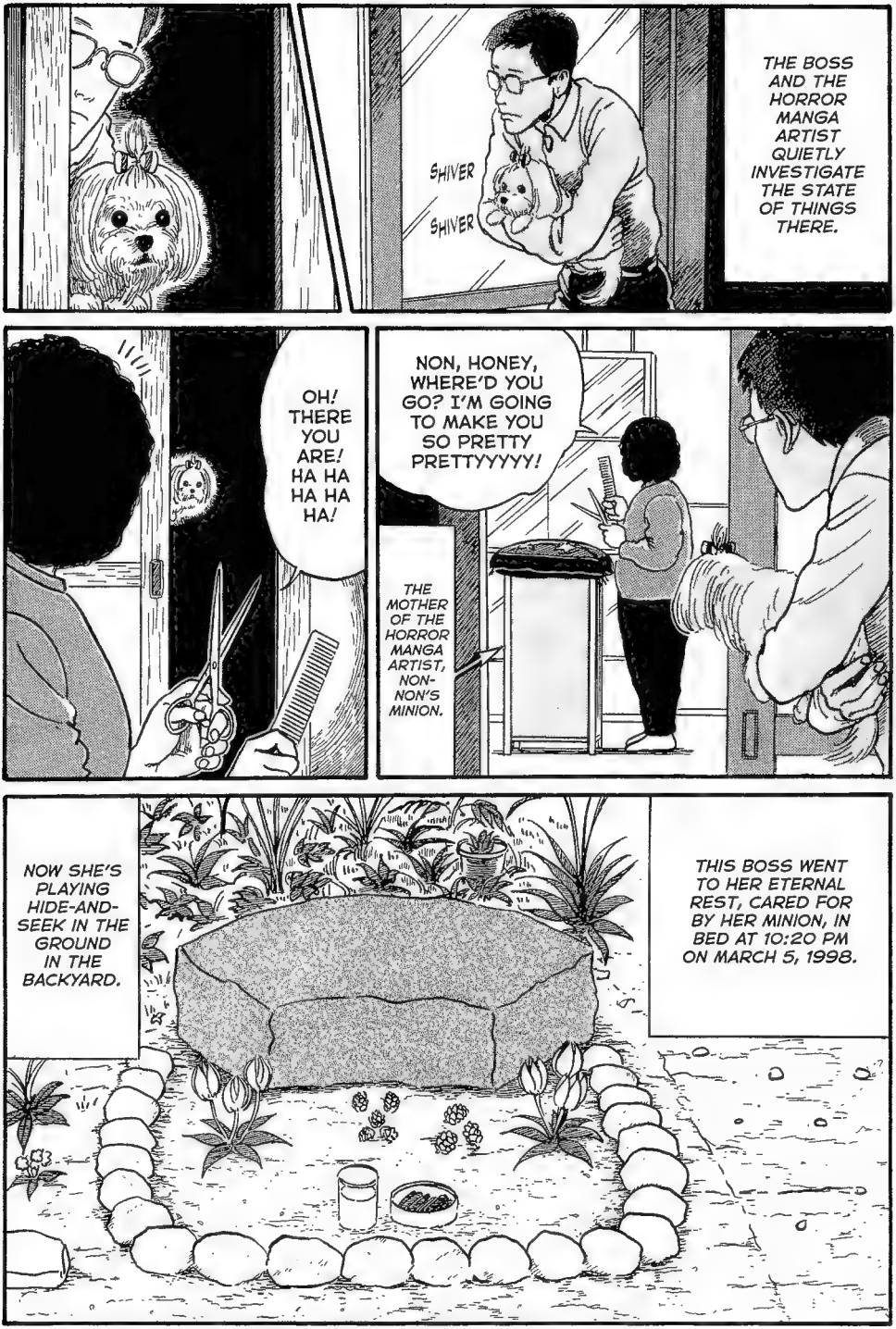

GRRRRR!
AFTER THE PRETTY PRETTY, SHE GETS REVENGE ON HER MINION.
SO HER MINION PUTS A LARGE BANDAGE OVER IT.
SHE SCRATCHES AT HER NECK AND MAKES IT OOZE.
SO SHE HAS WARTS ALL OVER HER BODY.
THE BOSS IS ALREADY 60.
SHE HAS HEMOR-RHOIDS, TOO.
...THE BOSS SLEEPS WITH HER MINION.
AGAIN TONIGHT...
SZRRRRR
SZRRRRR
SHE ALSO SNORES.

BOSS NON-NON / END

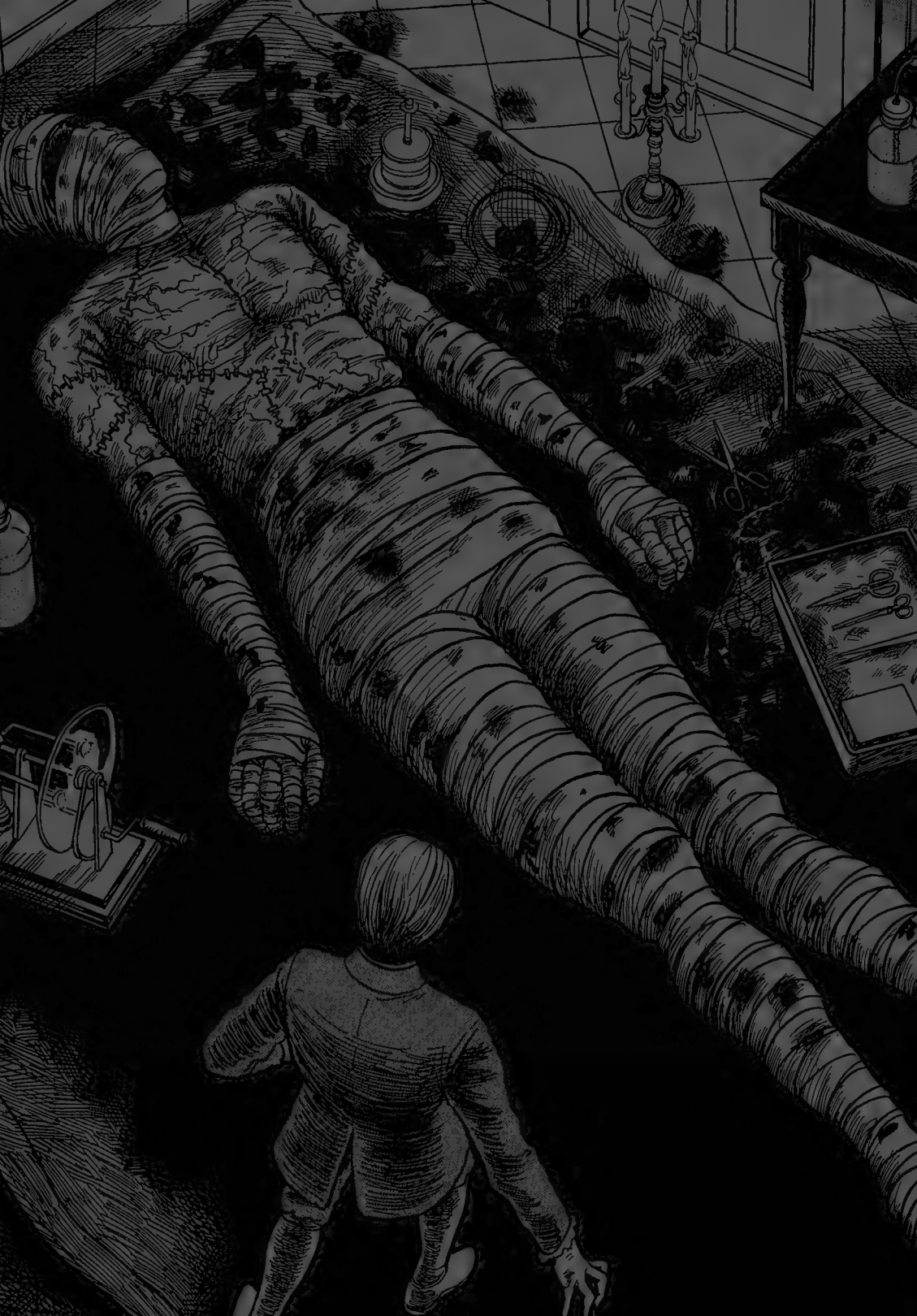

HIDE-AND-SEEK WITH BOSS NON-NON
ノンノン親分のかくれんぼ
...SHE COMES TO THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRS TO CHECK ON THE HORROR MANGA ARTIST.
AND THEN LATER...
THE HORROR MANGA ARTIST HAS HIS STUDIO ON THE SECOND FLOOR.
I LEARNED HOW TO FROM TV.
I SCOLD NON-NON.
GRAR GRAAR!
BUT NON-NON...
...IS THE BOSS, SO SHE'S NEVER SORRY.

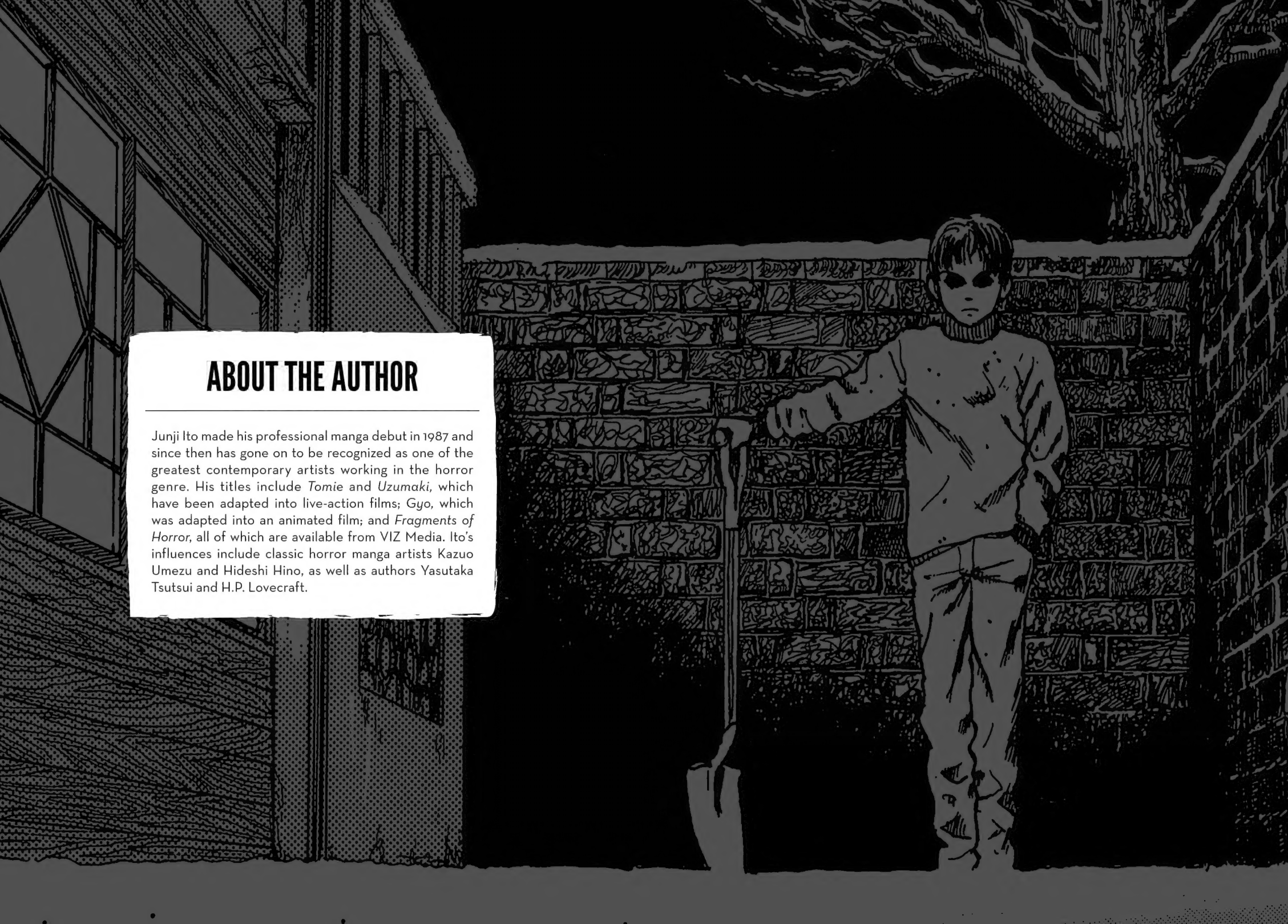
TROT
TROT
TROT
TROT
TROT
TROT
WHAT IS IT, NON-NON?
YOU WANT A HUG?
FSH
TROT
TROT
TROT
TROT
TROT

I'M GONNA GIVE YOU A BIG HUUUUUG!
NON-NOOOOON!
...AND HIDES AT HIS FEET.
SHE COMES IN WHEN THE HORROR MANGA ARTIST IS BRUSHING HIS TEETH...
SHK SHK
SOMETIMES, THE BOSS PLAYS HIDE-AND-SEEK, TOO.
Shk Shk
THE BOSS'S CONCERN LIES TOWARD THE KITCHEN.
SHIVER
SHIVER
WHAT'S WRONG, NON-NON?
SHIVER
SHIVER


SHIVER
SHIVER
THE BOSS AND THE HORROR MANGA ARTIST QUIETLY INVESTIGATE THE STATE OF THINGS THERE.
OH! THERE YOU ARE! HA HA HA HA HA!
NON, HONEY, WHERE'D YOU GO? I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU SO PRETTY PRETTYYYYY!
THE MOTHER OF THE HORROR MANGA ARTIST, NON-NON'S MINION.
NOW SHE'S PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEEK IN THE GROUND IN THE BACKYARD.
THIS BOSS WENT TO HER ETERNAL REST, CARED FOR BY HER MINION, IN BED AT 10:20 PM ON MARCH 5, 1998.

HIDE AND SEEK WITH BOSS NON-NON / END





ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Junji Ito made his professional manga debut in 1987 and since then has gone on to be recognized as one of the greatest contemporary artists working in the horror genre. His titles include *Tomie* and *Uzumaki*, which have been adapted into live-action films; *Gyo*, which was adapted into an animated film; and *Fragments of Horror*, all of which are available from VIZ Media. Ito's influences include classic horror manga artists Kazuo Umezu and Hideshi Hino, as well as authors Yasutaka Tsutsui and H.P. Lovecraft.

ALSO BY JUNJI ITO

From VIZ Media

GYO

UZUMAKI

TOMIE

FRAGMENTS OF HORROR

SHIVER: JUNJI ITO SELECTED STORIES

Frankenstein

JUNJI ITO STORY COLLECTION

Story & Art by Junji Ito

Ito Junji Kessakushu 10: Frankenstein
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"Frankenstein"
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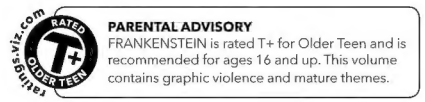

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